NEW WAVE WRESTLING

NOV. 2000
No. 42

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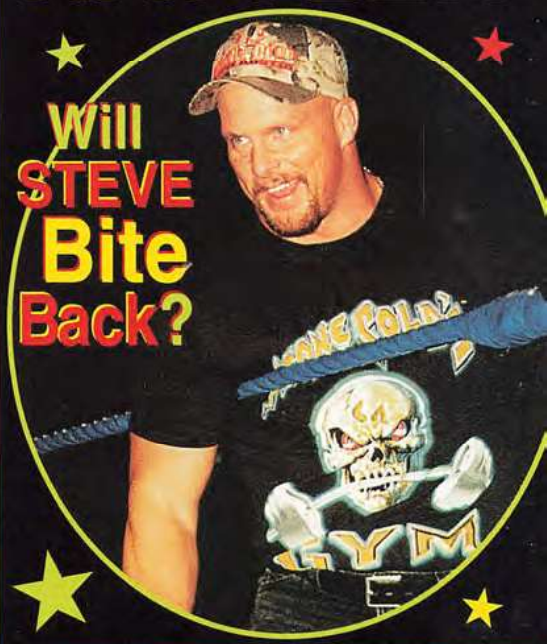

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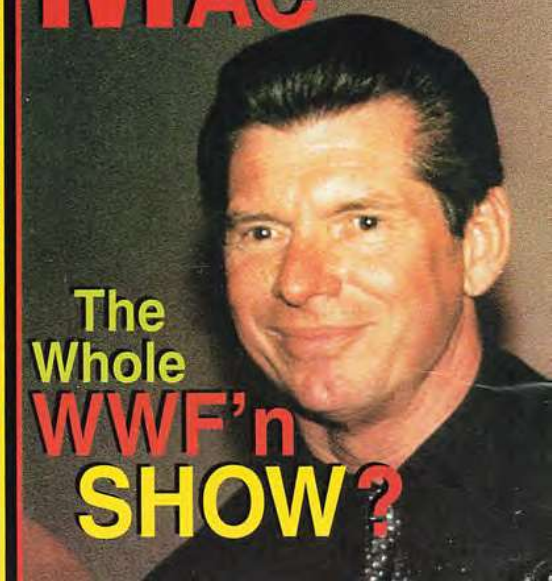

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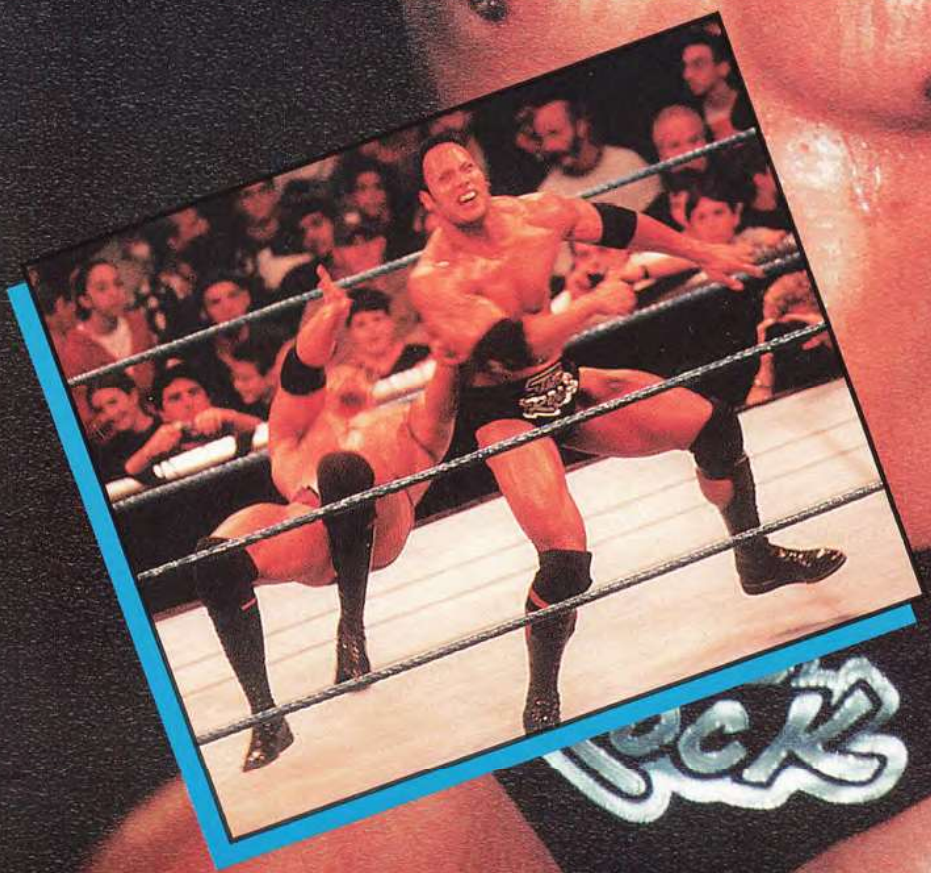

New Wave Wrestling®

VOL. 1, NO. 42 NOVEMBER 2000

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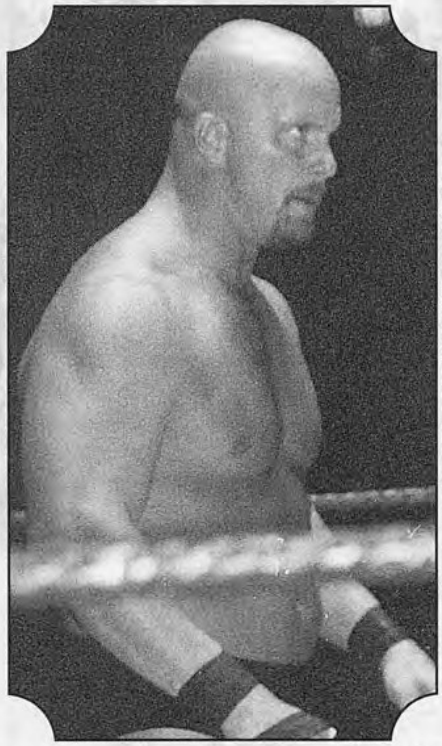

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Color Pinups: Steve Austin (Jerry Wilson) • Chris Benoit (Lisa Mantas) • Kane (Chris Powell) • Kimona (Craig Prendergast) • Rocky Maivia (Jerry Wilson) • Rocky Maivia in Action (Bill Miller) • Randy Savage (Hiroki Takeuchi).

Back Cover: Jimmy Cornette, "Lord" Steven Regal (George Wren) • Mil Mascaras (Tokio Tsukada) • Nicolai Volkoff, Mae Young (Craig Prendergast).

RANKINGS ABOLISHED!

Let's face it, ***New Waver***, since the beginning of this year, it has become clear that the once-respected wrestling championship belts have simply become props used to perpetuate the weekly storylines on cable TV; as a result, it is impossible to accurately rank wrestlers based on their merits and abilities.

The new criteria for determining who holds the gold seems to be based on creating shocking twists to the current scripts rather than any center-ring rasslin' talent. When ***New Wave Wrestling*** started back in 1992, we were driven to tell it like it is, with factual reporting, in-depth features, insightful commentaries, and interviews in which a wrestler was obligated to leave his or her ring persona in the dressing room. Still holding true to this credo today, we have decided that the long-held belief of ranking wrestlers must end. If the truth be told, we feel that there is no way to currently rank pro wrestlers without insulting your intelligence.

Simply put, the titles change hands at such a rapid pace that it is impossible to measure ability. In recent months, complete title rosters have been declared vacant. New champions have been crowned in "three-way dances" in which the actual titleholder was not even involved in the outcome. Valets and celebrities have garnered World titles, while other belts are held by nonwrestling performers, with the straps never being defended. In light of the new style of promoting, rankings can no longer be accomplished. There is no point foisting this fallacy on the good readers of this magazine by pretending that a rating system has a purpose. At least for the time being, rankings have absolutely no value.

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COMMENTARY FROM THE CUTTING EDGE
by Publisher/Editor MICHAEL O'HARA

Change. It's inevitable and something we usually fear. In most cases, we go kicking and screaming into the future, as we try to hold on to the safe, comfortable way we've come to expect the world to be. The illusionary fear of change is one of the most biggest stumbling blocks in life for individuals, wrestling promotions, and society in general.

Why can't things stay the way they were? Life is always in a constant state of change, and when changes occur, we can either swim erratically against the current, or simply relax and allow the strong, thunderous waves to carry us into new directions.

If nothing else, change has always been at the forefront of ***New Wave Wrestling's*** philosophy since its inception back in 1992. No other mat mag was willing to provide real names and honest, factual news as well as commentary on the grappling biz when we first came on the scene. We were both praised and taken to task for "exposing" the business. Critics asked why we weren't printing "computer dream matches" and pointless rankings of hundreds of wrestlers. We didn't do it because times had changed.

We walked the fine line between presenting facts while at the same time retaining the illusion of the mat battles. We never wanted to cast away the veil of fantasy, and I think the ***NWW gang*** did a pretty good job of finding a balance. Today every major-league wrestler has gone out of his way to reveal the game for what it is—a predetermined, extremely well-choreographed athletic performance featuring incredibly gifted performers engaging in high-risk combat stunt exhibitions.

Does this fact diminish the talents of the celebrated grappling gladiators? Absolutely not! Pound for pound, I still believe that wrestlers can hold their own and shine even brighter than any of their peers in other professional sports.

The modern mat masters are in better condition than their predecessors, and they've taken the level of "controlled violence" to a frightening new height. The demands on their physical ability has gone beyond their limits. We don't need to provide a recap of deaths and careers cut short because of serious injuries. While the matches may have a predetermined outcome, the injury list doesn't lie. Now, more than ever, pro wrestling is a dangerous way to make a living.

With the wrestlers and promoters being so candid about the true mechanics of the business, we must change our way of covering the sport—the old ways of reporting just don't apply anymore. We begin a new era of reporting RIGHT NOW! As you've already seen on the previous page, we've discontinued our rankings because they are no longer valid, and sadly, our ***Retro Rasslin' Recap*** has also become obsolete. When we first introduced this feature back in ***NWW #14***, there were 14 title changes over a two-month period, and the report took roughly half a page to present. Fast forward to our last issue (#41), where we had three full pages of changes, and as we attempted to compile this issue's title changes, we simply threw up our hands after filling six pages of idiotic belt switches. Let's face it, ***New Waver***, listing page after page of boring upsets isn't interesting—it isn't even writing, it's just monotonous typing.

The titles have lost their value. (Just about every major-league rassler can proclaim himself a "former champion" of one belt or another…yawn.) The history of all major belts came abruptly to a halt on December 31, 1999. Pro Wrestling 2000 has been a wash out from the standpoint of title importance, which is so incredibly sad when you look at the caliber of talent currently competing (at least when they're not recovering from near-fatal high spots).

Think fast—who are the current WCW World tag champions (duh)? We did a random survey of 50 fans at a local arena and only 2 fans answered correctly. Most fans thought the Dudley Boyz held the WWF tag straps, and they only realized that the belts had changed hands several times after we provided the updated chronology. Everyone seems to be saying the same thing. They love the action, but think the storylines are the pits. No one knows the current roster of champions with the exception being the WWF World title.

So what's a pro wrestling magazine to do? We'll occasionally examine titles on our **www.newwavewrestling.net** website, but the emphasis will be placed on the backgrounds of the stars along with solid facts and legitimate commentary on the current state of the slammin' nation.

We'll look at the game not as it was, but rather, as it is today—a wrestling drama with continuous plot twists. Today it's about quality or lousy acting coupled with interesting or idiotic storylines.

Thanks for tagging in, and, until next time, keep those positive waves.

MICHAEL O'HARA

P.S. Our next issue ***(New Wave Wrestling #43)*** will arrive at your local store on **October 26, 2000**. Did you know you could have it as early as **October 16** by taking advantage of our magnanimous magazine subscription offer! You'll receive **4** issues of ***New Wave Wrestling***, plus 4 Packs of Wrestling trading cards, an issue of our **COMBAT SPORTS** newsletter, and $64.94 in ***NWW*** discount coupons—an awesome $88.39 value—for ONLY $19.95! (see **Page 54** for details).

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FAT CITY WRESTLING

The Latest Lunacy From The Mean Mat Scene

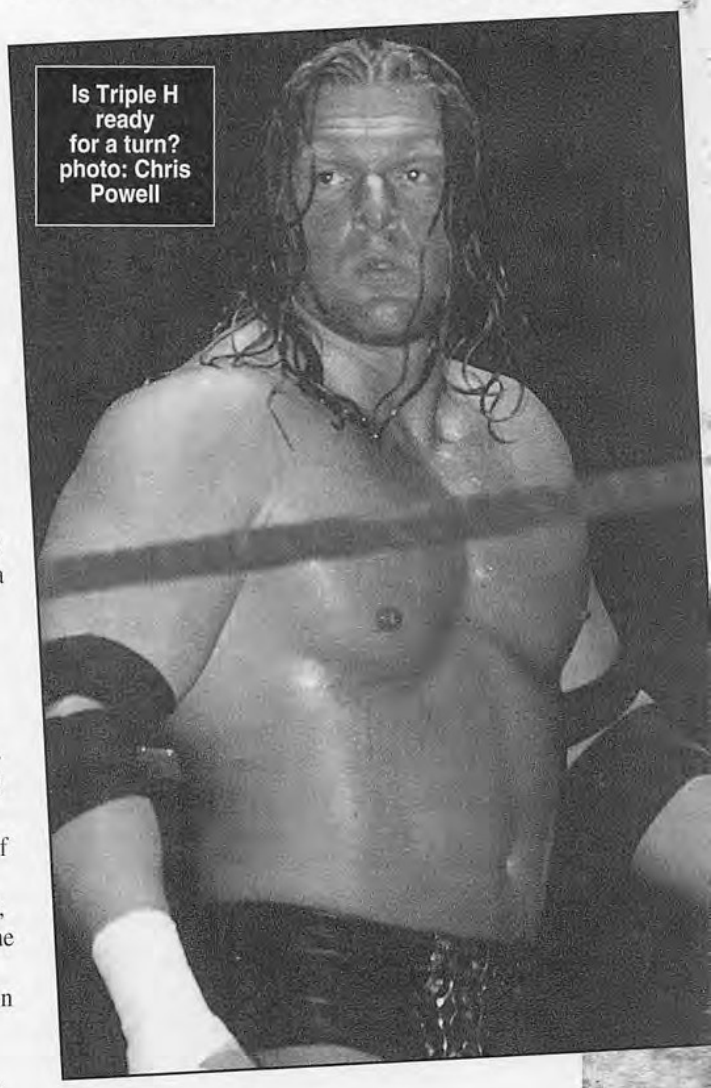
WWF: One has to wonder how much of The Rock we'll be seeing in the months to come. He will soon be making his motion-picture debut in *Mummy 2*, and has also reportedly come close to signing a two-picture deal for an estimated $10 million. At the same time, the WWF has extended Maivia's multiyear contract beyond its current time of expiration, so this man is definitely going to be busy juggling two very demanding careers.

Tazz (Peter Senerchia) is back in action after mending a torn bicep, and he should be feuding with "Crippler" Chris Benoit by the time you read this. Everyone is looking forward to this one as they are destined to have the hottest mat clashes this summer.

We have to "hand" it to Kane (Glen Jacobs) who has been competing while still mending a broken fist!…Look for "Lord" Steven Regal (Darren Matthews), who triumphantly emerged from his battle against painkillers, to take his rightful place amongst the Federation's finest. The Blackpool, England native has been very vocal about his appreciation to the WWF for placing him in rehab and paying for his treatment.

Lots o' legal rasslin' over the presentation of WWF programming. Viacom/CBS wants the WWF to move *RAW* to its Nashville Network, but the USA Network claims that they have the legal right to match any offer as they hope to keep WWF programming on their cable station through 2005.

If that weren't enough, ECW honcho Paul E. Dangerously (Paul Heyman) has been very vocal about his displeasure with the Nashville Network, which currently airs their weekly program. Paul has been so livid as of late that his two-minute verbal bashing of the station was edited out prior to its airing, which has only added more fuel to the fire.



Is Triple H ready for a turn? photo: Chris Powell

If the WWF heads to TNN, will that set the wheels in motion for ECW to jump to USA?

Billy Gunn should be back in action by the time you read this…Raven (Scott Levy) is looking to jump ship from ECW to the WWF.

Plenty of rumors abound that Hunter Hearst Helmsley (Paul Michael LeVesque) will turn "babyface" and challenge the McMahon Corporation…Collegiate wrestlers Brock Lesnar and Shelton Benjamin are the latest amateurs in training at the WWF training camp…Viscera (Nelson "Mabel" Frazier) is out of action with a separated shoulder.

The WWF has purchased the full rights to its Times Square theme restaurant from the Parkview Restaurant Group; they are

"Big Sexy" is going for Gold (berg). photo: Lisa Mantas

planning to turn the venture into more of an entertainment complex rather than a nosh niche.

WCW: The emergence of Bill Goldberg as WCW's latest villain came right on the heels of his signing a new three-year deal with the league.

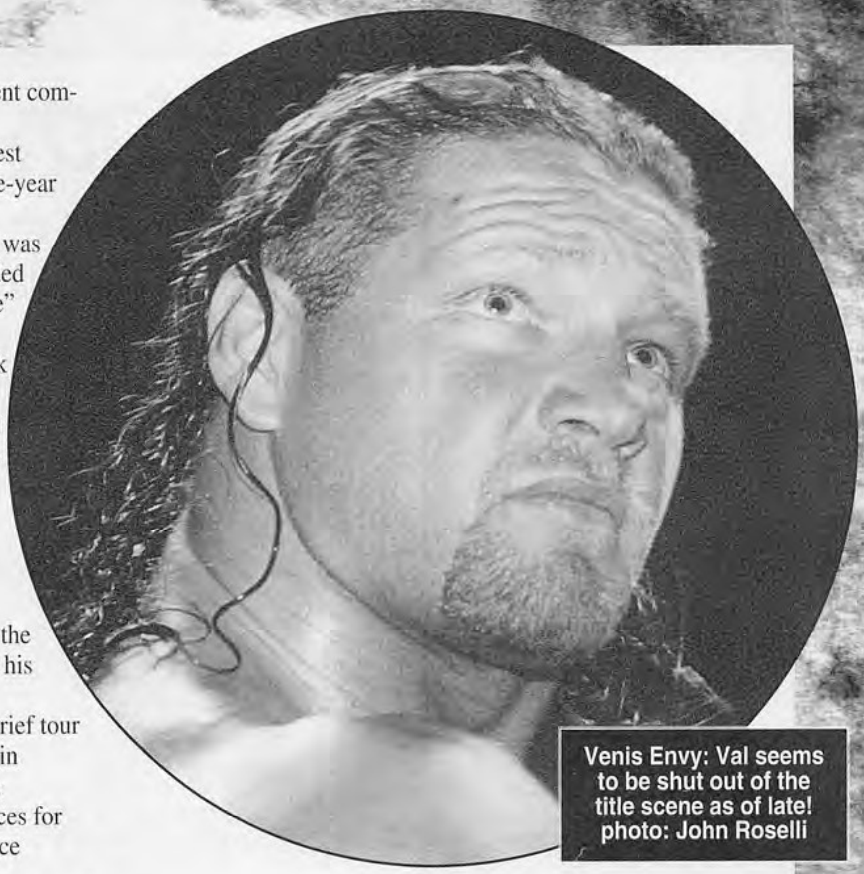
"Nature Boy" Ric Flair's loss in a "retirement" match was necessary so that that blond legend can have much-needed shoulder surgery. Once he's on the mend, he'll "unretire" pronto!

Bret "The Hitman" Hart, who was expected to be back in action by early June, is still feeling the effects of a lingering concussion at the hands of Bill Goldberg from last December's *Starrcade* pay-per-view. The Canadian great continues to be plagued by dizziness and bouts of unsteadiness. Get well soon, Bret.

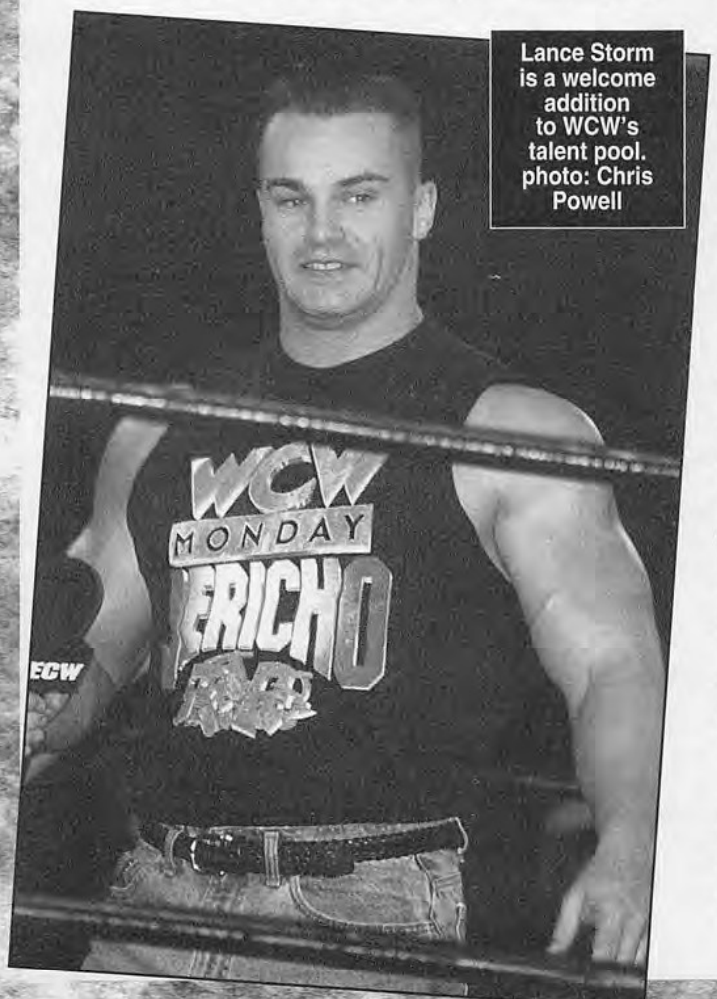
While on the subject of the pink & black attack, he made some very bold statements on a recent edition of *The Last Word* in which he called for a wrestling labor union, and took Vince McMahon to task for continuing the pay-per-view event after his brother Owen had fallen to his death.

The Great Muta (Keiji Mutoh) is expected to make a brief tour of WCW very soon, followed by a possibly longer stay in 2001…Lex Luger (Lawrence Pfohl) and Miss Elizabeth (Elizabeth Hewitt) are allegedly citing creative differences for their recent conspicuous absence from WCW TV…Lance Storm (Lance Evers) signed a three-year deal with WCW…Scott Hall is still on the mend after undergoing neck surgery this past April.

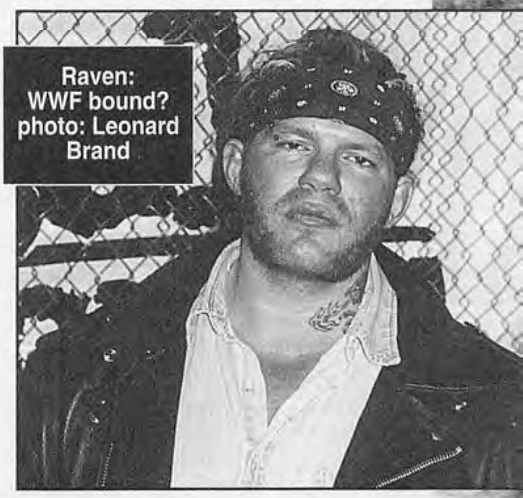
It's amazing to think that after wrestling has finally disposed of all its idiotic ethnic villains, the last great (?) stereotype would turn out to be Vince Russo. Now that it's no longer politically correct to hold on to that old rasslin' formula, it had to be expected that we would see the emergence of characters like Russo and "Oklahoma" (Ed Ferrara). As the late Walt Kelly used to say, "We have seen the enemy, and he is us!"



Venis Envy: Val seems to be shut out of the title scene as of late! photo: John Roselli



Lance Storm is a welcome addition to WCW's talent pool. photo: Chris Powell



Raven: WWF bound? photo: Leonard Brand

The most priceless rassling quote of recent times was made by Eric Bischoff in a *New York Daily News* article (dated April 6, 2000), in which he proclaimed, "The only thing that's real in the wrestling business is the competition between WCW and the WWF. The rest is scripted."

LEGAL LOCKS: The New Jersey Assembly approved a bill which would crack down on "extreme wrestling"—limiting the excessive use of bloodletting instruments during matches, such as staple guns, cheese graters, and sharp objects. Wrestlers will have to depend on actually using holds and counterholds.

Meanwhile New York State Senator Thomas Libous (R-Binghamton) has proposed that pro wrestlers should be tested for drugs to protect them and create "more suitable role models for young spectators." Wrestlers testing positive three times could be banned for life from competing in New York and their sponsors could be fined up to $100,000. ***NWW***

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West Paterson, NJ 07424

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Dauphin, PA 17018

American Independent Wrestling Alliance
P.O. Box 226994
Los Angeles, CA 90022

American Wrestling Association
4739 14th Avenue NW, Suite 4
Rochester, MN 55901-8208

American Wrestling Council
P.O. Box 283
Cliffwood, NJ 07721

Appalachian Champ. Wrestling
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Weston, WV 26452

Arizona Wrestling Promotions
6402 West Lamor
Glendale, AZ 85301

CWS Wrestling, Inc.
P.O. Box 1622
Hendersonville, TN 37077

Central Championship Wrestling Promotions
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St. Louis, MO 63130

Century Wrestling Alliance
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Revere, MA 02151

Commonwealth Wrestling Assoc.
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Garrett, KY 41630-0179

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Lovejoy, GA 30228

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Glendale, AZ 85311-1884

Grande Wrestling Alliance Promotions
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Hardcore Championship Wrestling Promotions
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Hoosier Pro Wrestling
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ICW•IWCCW
P.O. Box 6314
Parsippany, NJ 07054

IPWA•McKay Promotions
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New York, NY 10002

IWA
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IWA
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Winston-Salem, NC 22103

ICW Pro Wrestling
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IWF Promotions
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Indep. Championship Wrestling
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Succasunna, NJ 07876

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Mainstream Wrestling Organization
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Wilmington, NC 28412

Mid-Atlantic Wrestling
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Carolina Beach, NC 28428

Midwest Territorial Wrestling
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Mohawk Valley Sports and Entertainment
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NWA-Midsouth
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NWA-UK Hammerlock
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Pacific Wrestling
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Brandon, FL 34299

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Pro Girl Wrestling Association
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Reading, PA 19603

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Sunshine Wrestling Federation
P.O. Box 56269
Miami, FL 33256

Texas All-Star Wrestling
P.O. Box 951
Humble, TX 77347

Texas Championship Wrestling
410 N Elm Street
Lancaster, TX 75146

Texas Outlaw Promotions
2114 SW 2nd Avenue
Mineral Wells, TX 76067

Three Rivers Wrestling
P.O. Box 184
Glassport, PA 15045

Top Rope Wrestling
P.O. Box 1203
Princeton, WV 24740

UCWA
P.O. Box 1345
Polk City, FL 33868

USWF
741 Riverside Avenue
Elmira, NY 14904

Ultimate Championship Wrestling
124-06 Metropolitan Avenue
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Universal Superstars
Phone: 718-802-0220 x169

WCW
One CNN Center
Box 105366
Atlanta, GA 30348-5366

WIWO
6 Norman Road
Saugas, MA 01906

WWA • Monster Factory
118 Stanley Avenue
Westville, NJ 08093

WWF
Titan Towers
1241 East Main Street
P.O. Box 3857
Stamford, CT 06905-3857

Wild Champ. Wrestling Outlaws
P.O. Box 51950
Indianapolis, IN 46251-1950

Windy City Wrestling
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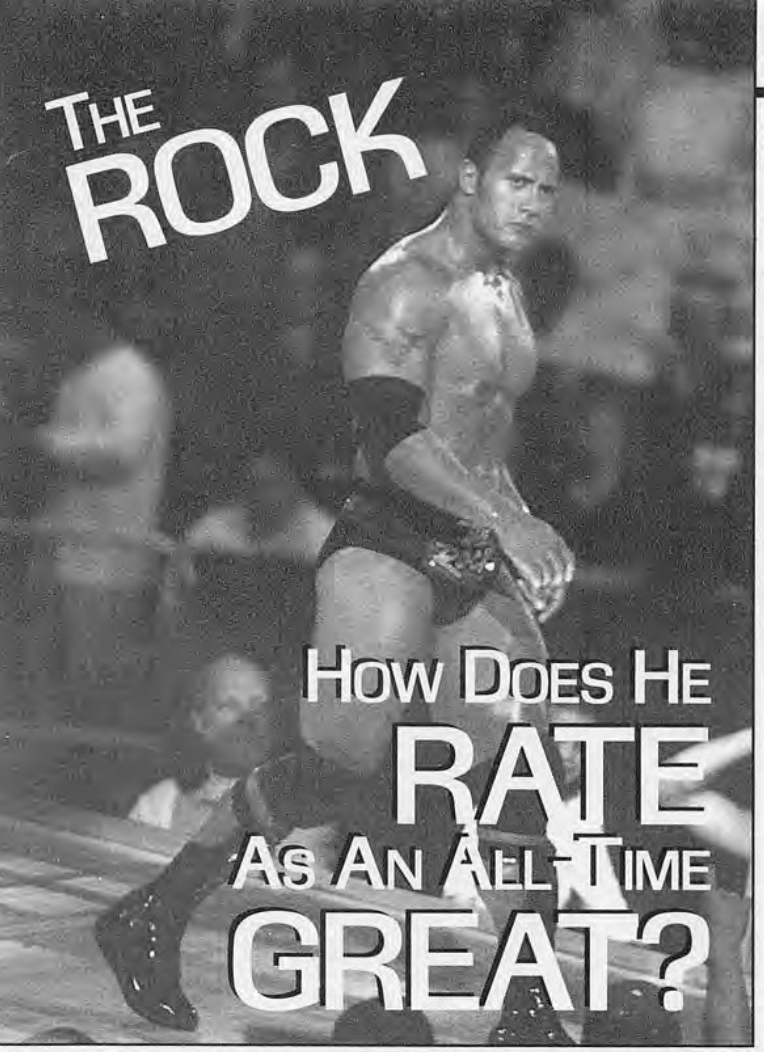


THE ROCK

HOW DOES HE RATE AS AN ALL-TIME GREAT?

As any astute ***New Waver*** will tell you, the days of the clear cut-heroes and villains have sadly drifted into the realm of mat history, and leading the way is main-event WWF wrestler "The Rock" Rocky Maivia. It's hard to accurately describe him as his good guy/bad guy persona dispenses a verbal barrage of egocentric catch phrases that would lead one to believe that this is a guy destined to lead fandom's hate parade, but nothing could be further from the truth. In the ring, he exemplifies the epitome of bad-jock behavior, but somehow the fans know that deep down he's a pretty good guy offstage.

For all of his irascible rancor, the sunny side of his personality comes shining through at any given fan gathering. Whether he's seated before thousands of autograph seekers or talking before a grammar school filled with hyperactive preteens, Rocky takes time to acknowledge them all.

In real life, The Rock relinquishes his alter ego and reverts back to being 28-year-old Dwayne Johnson, a man who'd be hard-pressed to tell anyone to "shut up" or "know their role."

A third-generation wrestling superstar and former defensive tackle football player at the University of Miami, Maivia knew he was destined for the grappling game. "I always knew that somehow, somewhere I would have something to contribute to the world of sports entertainment," stated the mat master.

Competing under the name of Flex Cabana, he earned his first major championship with partner Bart Sawyer when they defeated "Brickhouse" Brown and Reggie B. Fine for the vacant USWA tag-team titles in Memphis, Tennessee on June 17, 1996. After spending his rookie year on the now-defunct circuit, he arrived on the big-time WWF scene in late 1996 and was introduced as Rocky Maivia, a squeaky-clean ring gladiator following in the footsteps of his father, Rocky Johnson, and grandfather, the late Chief Peter Maivia.

Within a matter of months, it became apparent that good things were going to happen for the ambitious youth. On February 13, 1997 in Lowell, Massachusetts, he used a small package to pin Hunter Hearst Helmsley in 17:02 to capture the Intercontinental heavyweight championship.

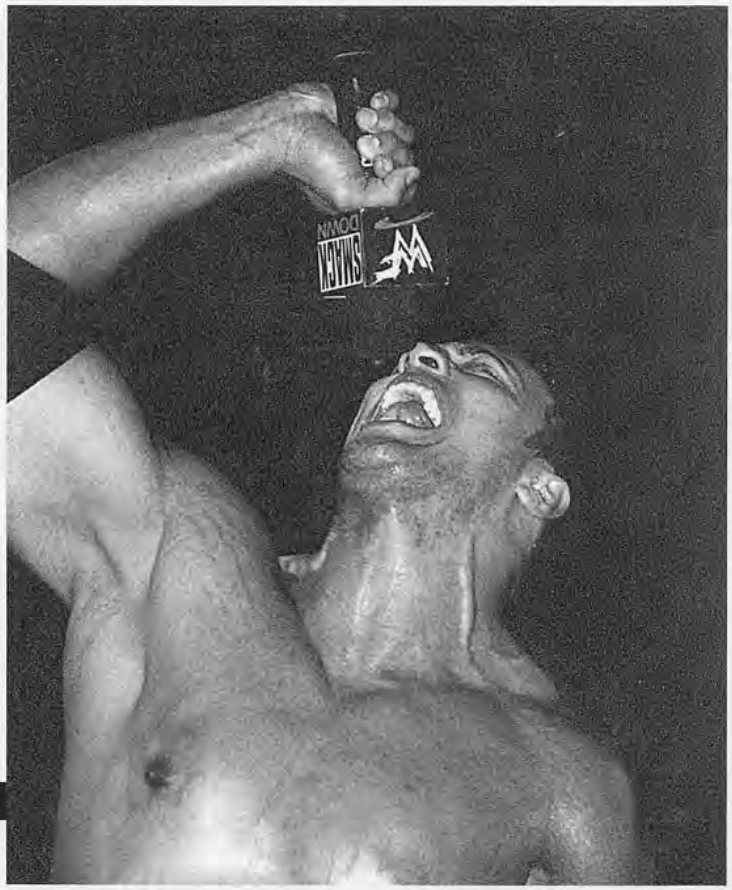
Dissatisfied with his initial WWF role, which he considered to have "no character at all," the 6-foot-4, 265-pound Miami, Florida native started making subtle changes to his ring antics, and spent a great deal of time writing his own material to be used on the cable TV wrestling shows. His most famous catch phrase—"Can you smell what the Rock is cooking?"—has become one of the best known slogans in the clichéd business. (Though when fans are randomly asked to explain what it means, most shrug their shoulders in bewilderment; however, all unanimously agree that it was a great saying. Uh-huh.)

When not throwing around well-rehearsed lines, he can be founding practicing other assorted trademarks, such as his famed arched eyebrow or people's elbow finishing maneuver, making The Rock one of the most marketable performers in the Federation's endless circus tour.

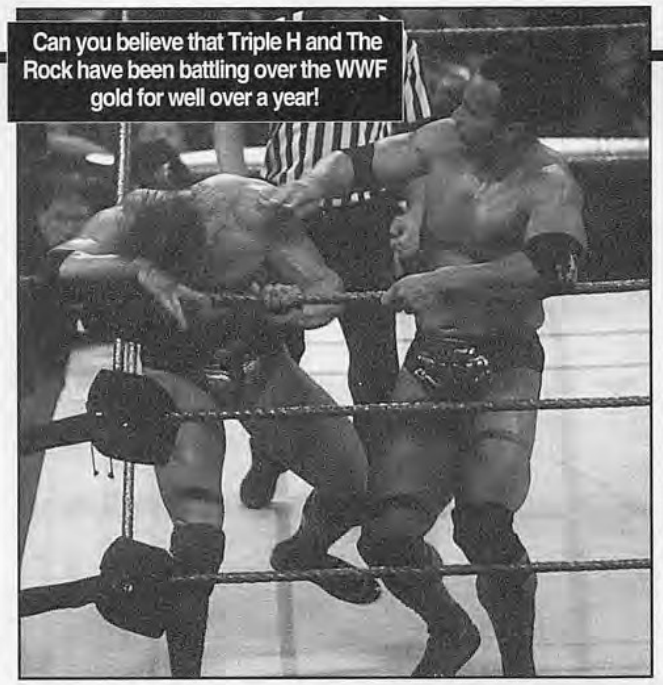
Over the past few years, he moved in and out of such memorable groups as the Nation of Domination and the McMahon Corporation, but in spite of gang affiliation, he always shined brightest as a solo performer.

Controversy followed every one of Rock's title reigns since becoming a rulebreaker. On December 8, 1997 in Portland, Maine, he was awarded the Intercontinental heavyweight belt after "Stone Cold" Steve Austin relinquished his claim to the crown. It wasn't the way he wanted to start a title reign, but he accepted the situation and proved to be a fighting champion.

On November 15, 1998 in St. Louis, Missouri, Maivia defeated Mankind via submission for the vacant WWF World



story by Michael O'Hara • photos by Bill Miller & Jerry Wilson



Can you believe that Triple H and The Rock have been battling over the WWF gold for well over a year!

heavyweight strap. Special referee Shane McMahon called for the bell even though Mankind did not submit.

The World title victory over Mankind ushered in an era in which The Rock has continued to win and lose the gold in rapid succession. He went on to garner several more title reigns at the expense of Mankind and Hunter Hearst Hemlsley.

Each championship victory seems to slip through his fingers, lasting merely long enough to whet the appetite of the fans for more (which is just what the script calls for).

With or without the gold, it makes very little difference to his adoring public. When making personal appearances, the mat sensation is mobbed by an unending barrage of 12-year-old kids, which leads one to wonder if pro wrestling's current incarnation is suitable viewing for this age group.

"It's not my agenda to monitor what children are watching. As a responsible parent, you have to monitor what your kids watch and act accordingly. That decision has to be made on a household by household basis," said the former World heavyweight champion.

As you can see, Rock is far from being a dumb jock. He graduated from the University of Miami with a double major in exercise physiology and criminology, and his multimillion-dollar wrestling contract is in the capable hands of his wife Dany, an associate vice president for a major investment company.

Although his grandfather, the legendary mat great High Samoan Chief Peter Maivia, had passed away years before his professional debut, Rock's parents Rocky and Ata are very proud of his accomplishments, but they are quick to admonish him for going over the line. "They're very proud, but they're also very critical. My mother's always saying, 'Did you have to say candy a$% so many times, and why did you have to hit that wrestler so hard with a chair?' "

"My father understands what it takes to make it to the top, so he's less critical, but the most I ever get out of him is 'Ah, you're doing OK,' " chuckled the mat megastar.

Where The Rock will rank when measured against other WWF champions, such as Steve Austin, Hulk Hogan, and Bret Hart, remains to be seen. It is unfortunate that the current promotional climate calls for title changes at such a rapid rate. As a result, we may never truly recognize the grappling greatness of Mr. Maivia. ***NWW***

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Forever Mae Young

photo: Craig Prendergast

NW: HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH PRO WRESTLING, MAE?

MY: When I was about 6 years old, my family was friends of Ed "Strangler" Lewis, who was a very famous professional wrestling champion of that era. As a little girl, he taught me the different wrestling moves, which led me to wrestling in high school on the boys amateur wrestling team. In 1939, I began my professional wrestling career when I was 16 years old.

NW: What was your training like?

MY: Actually, I really didn't have any training other than what Ed "Strangler" Lewis taught me. He showed me all the different moves to make and I learned on my own from there. When I wrestled amateur in high school, I lettered for two years.

NW: Who gave you your first big break in wrestling?

MY: A fellow by the name of Billy Wolfe gave me my first break in wrestling. He was the manager of the World's Lady champion at the time, Mildred Burke. I had a tryout and I beat all of his girls; he said I had the right attitude and talent to be a wrestler. That's how I had my first professional match.

Mildred Burke, the Women's champion, was also Billy Wolfe's wife, and I challenged her for the World's title. Billy told me that I couldn't challenge Mildred without beating a top contender. I went one step further by beating all his girls, and I was able to get a shot at Mildred. I'm the only girl that ever wrestled Mildred Burke to a 90-minute draw without a fall.

NW: Where else did you work?

MY: I wrestled for everybody in this country and all over the world. I was the first girl in Japan when the United States sent talent over there after World War II. We were a little skeptical about it, but they treated us wonderfully in Japan. They showed great respect for the American wrestlers.

NW: Were you ever subjected to any prejudices as a woman in a male-dominated business?

MY: Well, when I first started out in wrestling, all the men were jealous of the women because we moved faster and the fans loved our matches. The men were not quite as active as they are now. Today they move as fast as any woman possible, but back then they applied holds and tried to wear down their opponents. People got tired of watching the slow matches so the male wrestlers started wrestling like girls. There are a lot of guys out there now that are wrestling like we used to when I first began. *[Laughs]*

NW: How have you seen the business change over the course of your career?

MY: Of course when I first started in the business, you had to know a little about wrestling. Now it's more or less showmanship and soap opera, and I'm enjoying it very much. I love it. Where else could you get a paycheck at my age?

NW: Actually, if you don't mind my asking, how old are you?

MY: I was 77 years old on March 12.

NW: What does your family think of your involvement in wrestling?

MY: All my family has passed away now, but my mother was a very religious woman and she really didn't care for me being in the business.

NW: What would you say is the best thing about the business?

MY: I do a lot of traveling and I enjoy it, so for me that's the greatest asset to the wrestling business. You get to travel all over the world and meet different people. A little country girl like me would never have gone anywhere if it hadn't been for the great opportunity I had in the wrestling business.

NW: What is the worst thing about the business?

MY: There's a lot of negative things about the business, but there's also a lot of positive things about the business. I love the business. You know that I love the business. I've wrestled since 1939, that's over 60 years! I've been wrestling for 8 decades, and you have to love this business in order to stay with it that long. I'd rather focus on all the good things about wrestling and just accept the negatives as part of the business.

NW: Was it hard for you to get work as a female wrestler?

interview by Craig Prendergast

Mae and Moolah are an unbeatable combination in and out of the ring. photo: Craig Prendergast

MY: No. Billy Wolfe used to book the girls; we wrestled 5 or 6 nights a week in 2-out-of-3 fall matches. Today it's really wonderful because you don't have any time limits. When I first started, I'd go out there and wrestle 2-out-of-3 falls with a 90-minute time limit. Sometimes you'd wrestle for over an hour, so you had to be in really good shape. You definitely earned your pay.

NW: Was it difficult for you to maintain any relationships while you were on the road so much?

Mae is sandwiched by Japan's best, Akira Hokuto & Bull Nakano. photo: Matt Langley

Mae gave Lady Victoria a harsh ring lesson. photo: Matt Langley

MY: Yes, it's difficult, but it's possible to have a good relationship. It's up to the individual. You can have a good relationship or you can have a bad one. It's up to you. You've got to give a lot when you're in the business.

NW: Do you have any kids?

MY: No, I don't.

NW: Are you training any wrestlers right now?

MY: Yes. Moolah and I have a wrestling school in Columbia, South Carolina. I taught Moolah how to wrestle, so we opened a wrestling school together. Our school is called All-American Wrestling Promotions.

NW: What advice do you have for any aspiring wrestlers?

MY: Anyone who puts their heart and soul into something can really do anything they choose to do. You just have to desire it badly enough. If you'd really like to get into this business, our school can make you both a wrestler and a showman; it takes both skills in order to get ahead and be successful in the ring. If you only know how to wrestle, you'll never make it in this business.

NW: What has been your proudest accomplisment in all your years of wrestling?

MY: Probably that I trained more girls than any other wrestler. A lot of people probably never heard of Nell Stewart, she was one of the top girls back in the 1940s. I've also taught such champs as June Byers, the Fabulous Moolah and many, many other girls who became top wrestlers. I've also taught many men, too.

NW: Whom do you admire in wrestling?

MY: This is going back many years, but I think Ed "Strangler" Lewis was one of the greatest wrestlers that ever lived, and I still respect and admire him to this day. When it comes to showmanship and wrestling, "Nature Boy" Buddy Rodgers was a great guy. He was fantastic!

NW: I know you've been on the road a lot and must have many interesting road stories. Do you have a good story that

As the United States champion, Mae's flamboyance made her one of the brighest stars of her time.
photo: Dave Cameron

happened to you on the road?

MY: *[Laughs]* I'll tell you a quick story about me. When I first started out in wrestling, there was a girl by the name of Gladys "Kill 'Em" Gillam. I just got through beating Gladys and we checked into our hotel after the show. I was bleaching my hair at the time, and I told her that I had to get my hair done. She said she bleached her hair all the time so she'd do it for me. I said okay, I'll let you do it.

We went into the hotel room and she took a bottle of ammonia, not peroxide which is what you're supposed to use, and poured it all over my head and down the sink. After that, my head was covered with sores from that ammonia.

Gladys saw me a day or two later and flipped at how I looked. *[Laughs]* She said, 'You know, Jonnie Mae, I'm not mad at you anymore.' I had beaten her at least a half dozen times so far; I guess she assumed that she got even with me by making my head full of blisters, it was a real mess!

NW: What interests do you have outside of wrestling?

MY: I love golf. I'd play 18 holes every day if I had the opportunity.

NW: Did you ever think you'd be involved in the wrestling business for all these years?

MY: Not really, but miracles are always happening to me, and I'm very thankful for them. When Vince McMahon Sr. was a promoter and created a circuit that booked shows regularly in Washington, D.C., I wrestled on his first card. That was the first time I ever met him. My opponent was a girl by the name of Gloria Barratini.

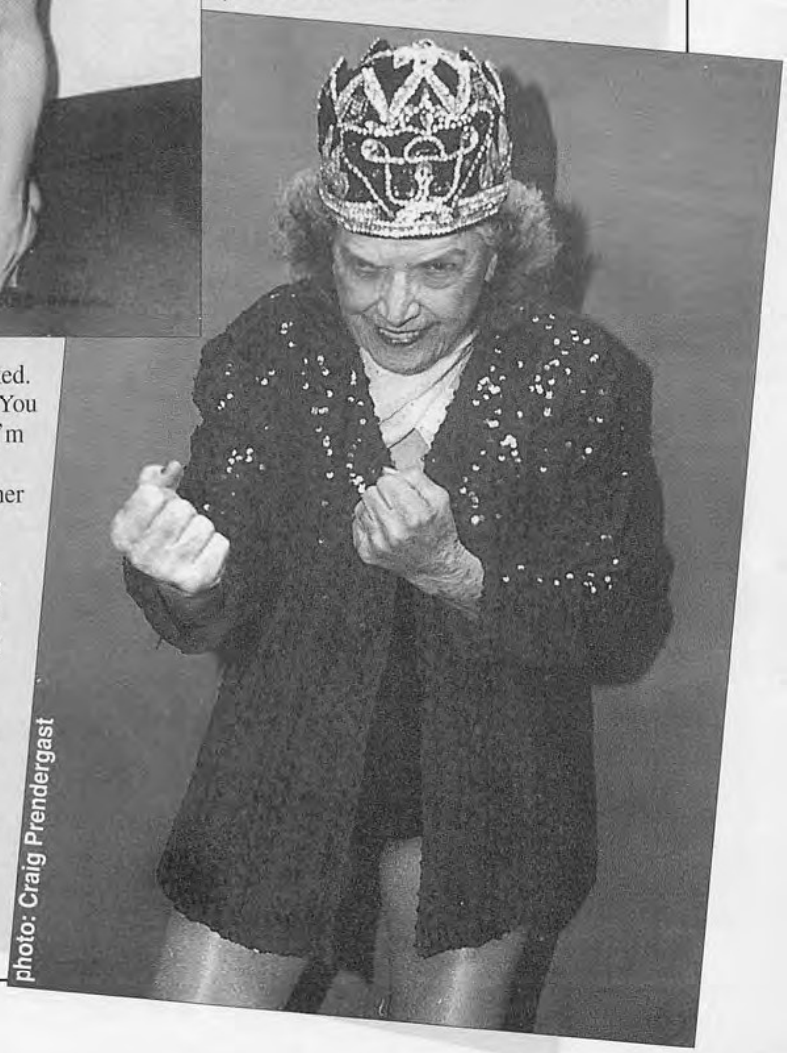
I'm so happy that I have the opportunity to work for Vince McMahon Jr. now. The McMahon family is a very, very wonderful bunch of people to work for.

NW: What do you still want to accomplish in wrestling?

MY: I just hope the future holds many more matches for me, and I'd like the opportunity to continue being part of the wonderful wrestling shows on cable. I'm enjoying myself very much right now, and I wouldn't want it to end. I love being in the World Wrestling Federation.

NW: Thank you very much for your time, Mae. You're a real inspiration. May you stay forever young in and out of the ring.

MY: You're welcome. ***NWW***



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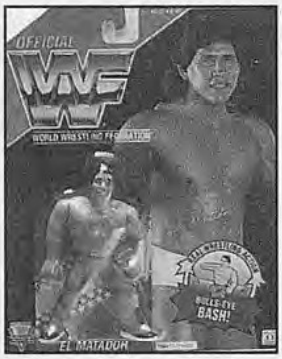

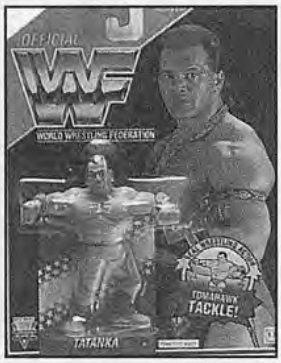

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AXL ROTTEN

photo: Steve Burton

NW: HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN WRESTLING, AXL?

AR: I started wrestling when I was about 15 years old. I used to go to a local boxing gym in Baltimore, Maryland, which is where I'm from, and I trained in a boxing ring with a bunch of guys. The difference between a boxing and a wrestling ring is there's a spring. We never had a spring; we used to go in there and beat the hell out of each other. It was almost like wrestling on a concrete floor every night, and we just kind of taught ourselves.

Then I met a guy named Jim Leon, who has since passed away. He used to wrestle on the independents as "Bad Boy" Ricky Lawless. He taught me to wrestle. Joey Maggs, who wrestled for WCW, also taught me. He's injured now, so I don't think he's wrestling anymore, but that's basically how I got started.

From there, I just did as much independent work as I could. I wrestled all over the world really. I've wrestled every place that would book me. That's what I would recommend to anyone. If they're going to book you, go and work your ass off. That's the best way to do it.

NW: What was your training like?

AR: Basically, drill insruction. Army kind of stuff. That's the best way to do it. I think a lot of guys have it too easy today. It's hard to respect the business if the only thing you're going to learn how to do is bleed and jump all over the place and see how many moonsaults you can do. I think that's a big problem. Guys don't know how to wrestle anymore. They just know how to do high spots.

NW: Who gave you your first break in wrestling?

AR: Probably Joe Pedicino back in 1990. I worked for the Global Wrestling Federation in Dallas, Texas. That was the first one. Then I got a job through Joe with WCW. After that, I worked for the USWA in Memphis, Tennessee for Jerry

interview by Craig Prendergast

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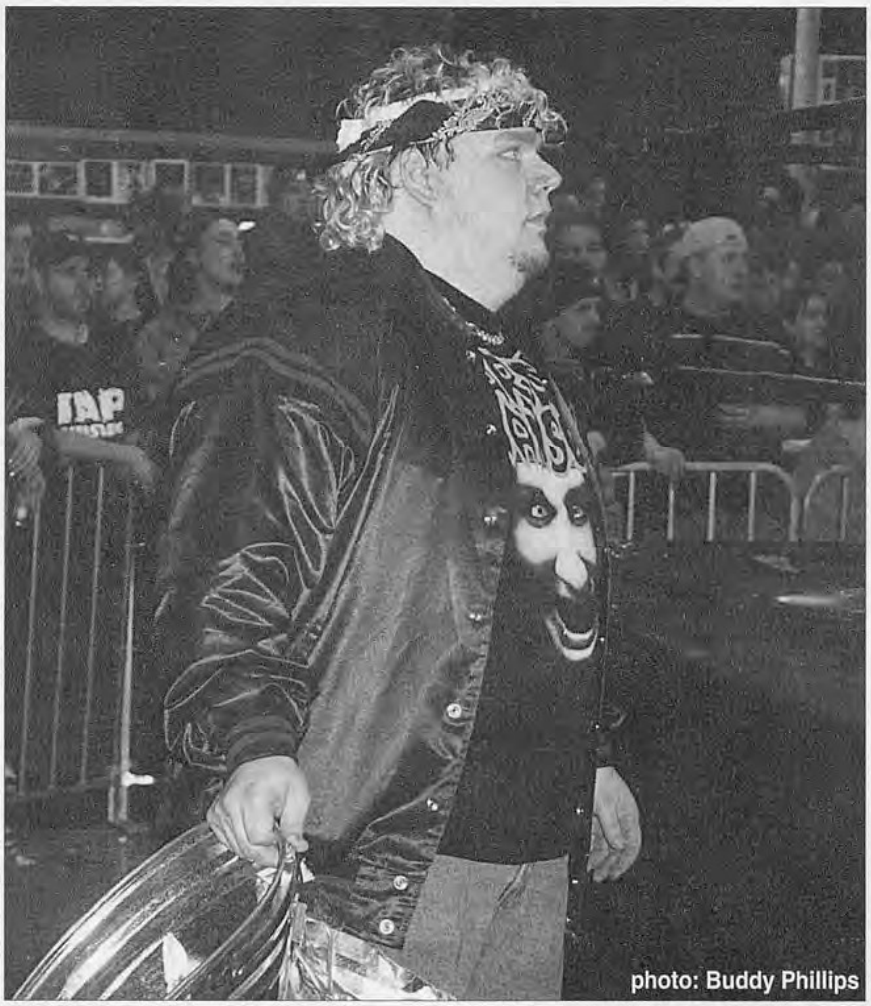
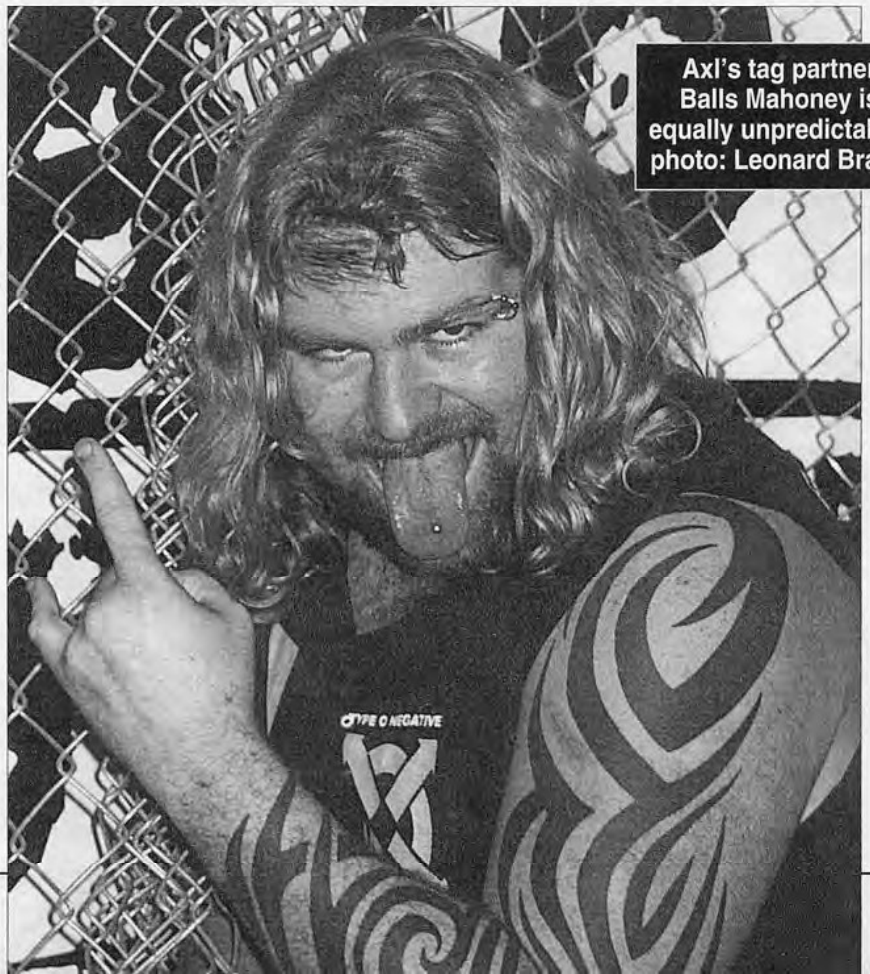
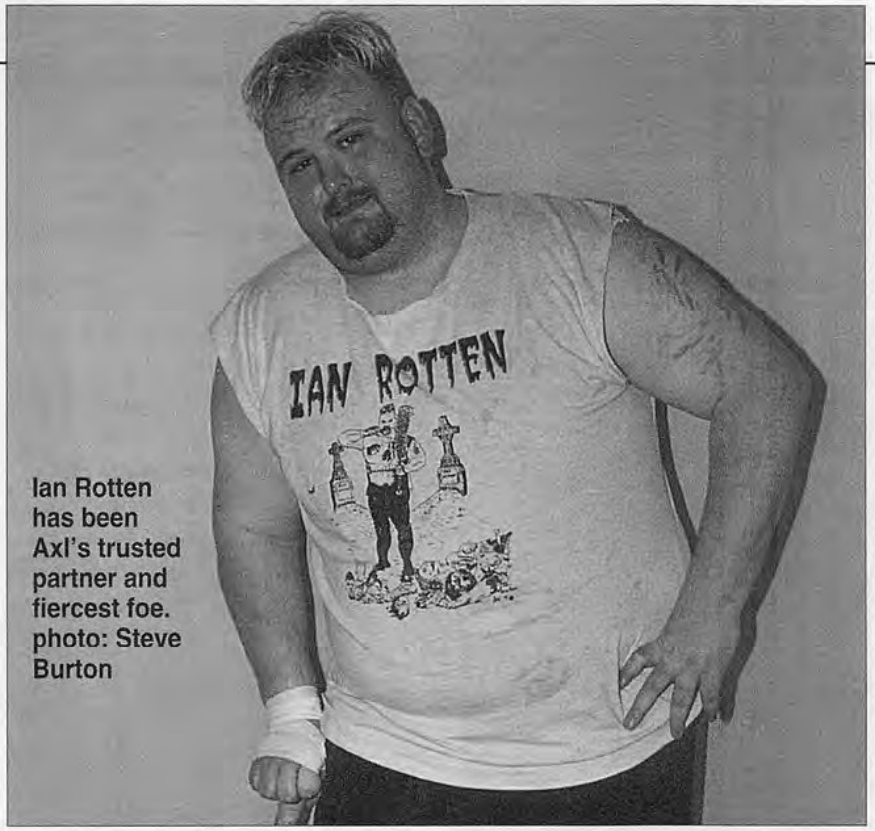


photo: Buddy Phillips

Lawler and guys like Eddie Gilbert and Brian Christopher. From there, I went to WCW, then later to ECW. That's how it went from one promotion to the other.
NW: How long have you been wrestling?
AR: Since I was 15. I'm 28 now, so how long is that? I can't do the math, I've had too many chair shots. *[Laughs]*
NW: Where else have you worked?
AR: I've also worked for BIG Japan, FMW Japan, IWA Japan, and WWC in Puerto Rico. There have been tons of U.S. independents, but I can't remember them all. Those are the main leagues.
NW: How did you get involved with Extreme Championship Wrestling?
AR: I was in WCW at the time when Paul Heyman was working there as a manager. I got to know him, and I became involved in the Dangerous Alliance. When ECW was being put together, Paul helped book the shows with Eddie Gilbert. Paul called me, and I worked with him ever since.
NW: What was it like working in ECW?
AR: It was good in the beginning. Guys like Ian Rotten, Sandman, and myself set the standard for what the company was in its heyday, not what it is now. What it is now is pretty much a skeleton of what it used to be.
NW: Why did you leave ECW?
AR: I left because it's basically a bunch of backstabbing two-faced egomaniacs now that national TV is involved. There used to be a "we and us" factor and now it's become "I and me," so it's not what it used to be. It's too cutthroat now and there's too many people that like to kiss ass to the promoter and the boss. I never do that and I won't do that. I'd rather walk away and have my pride than stay there and kiss ass.
NW: Would you ever go back to ECW if the opportunity ever presented itself?
AR: If they gave me the money they owe me and pay me a whole lot of money, sure I would. Otherwise the money is not really worth it. The biggest clique I've ever seen in the world is in the ECW locker room right now. It never used to be that way.
NW: What is your relationship with Ian Rotten at this time?
AR: Same as it's always been. I trained him. He was one of my students and we don't wrestle each other anymore. We just team up every now and then. I always tell promoters that they can't



Axl's tag partner Balls Mahoney is equally unpredictable! photo: Leonard Brand



Ian Rotten has been Axl's trusted partner and fiercest foe. photo: Steve Burton

afford to pay me what I want to wrestle Ian. We'd kill each other in a match.
NW: What would you say is the best and worst thing about the business?
AR: The WWF. That's the best aspect. They're what wrestling should be, entertainment and fun for everybody.

The worst aspect is wrestling that depends on nothing but thumbtacks and baseball bats, where guys have to kill themselves to get any kind of recognition rather than going out there with charisma and talent.
NW: What advice do you have for people looking to break into the business?
AR: Don't do it. Get a day job, go to school, do anything, just don't f%*@ with the wrestling business, it's really not worth it.
NW: What injuries have you suffered over the course of your career?
AR: None really, just stitches and scars. I haven't broken anything. I'm really lucky that I haven't had any big injuries.
NW: How do you deal with the pain of the stitches and scars?
AR: There's nothing you can do. You've

Axl keeps up on the latest action. photo: Craig Prendergast

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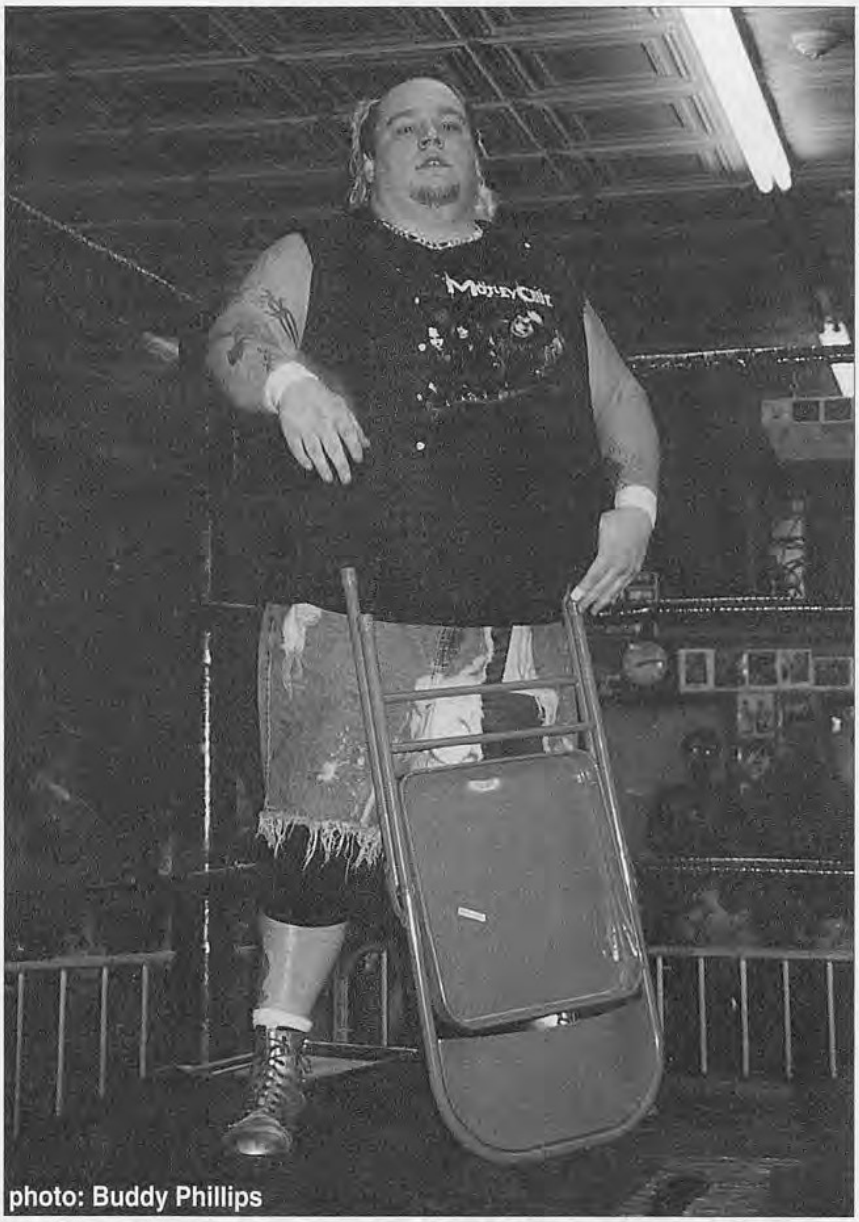
photo: Buddy Phillips

got to work hard every day, and you tape yourself up and keep going. You just get in there and do it. That's basically it.

There's nothing you can do other than sit down and quit, and if you're going to be one of those guys who quits when the going gets tough, then you're never ever going to succeed in the ring.

NW: What interests do you have outside of wrestling?

AR: Nothing. I've been wrestling since I was a kid and wrestling has consumed my life. I am a big fan of music, however, and I dabbled in it a little bit over the years. I listen to Kiss and bands like that. I do go to a lot of concerts and shows whenever I get the chance.

NW: What would you be doing if you weren't wrestling?

AR: I would probably be doing about 25 to life in a maximum security prison. *[Laughs]* Really.

NW: Do you look up to anyone in the business?

AR: Right now, nobody, but the reason I got into the wrestling business is because of Dusty Rhodes, Billy Graham, and Jerry Lawler, who were very charismatic and really good workers in the ring. They were the ones back in their day.

NW: How would you describe yourself as a wrestler?

AR: A decent worker with a hell of a promo, but people would rather see me bleed. That's about it.

NW: Does it bother you that people would rather see you bleed?

AR: No, because it's what we have given them. The public only believes what you tell them to believe, and that's what we tell them. If you tell them The Rock is the most charismatic sports entertainer in the world, people believe it because they keep hearing it over and over. If you say Axl and Ian are going to wrestle each other and they're going to bleed, that's what they're going to expect. It's all what the public has received as information.

NW: What are your plans for the future?

AR: Inevitably death. *[Laughs]* In the meantime, I don't care as long as I have a good time. I'll just keep wrestling and go wherever it takes me, whether it's Japan, the WWF, WCW, or maybe working on the independents and having some fun again. I think that the key to life is having a good time.

NW: What will you do when your body can no longer take the abuse of the ring?

AR: I'd like to be able to get out. Right now, I'm beaten to death at 28. I'd like to be able to teach younger guys how to do it and have a good time.

NW: You teamed with Balls Mahoney. Did you ever think you'd be that successful teaming together?

AR: Yes. It would have been even better if we didn't have all the politics working behind the curtain. Some of the guys who were supposedly on top pushing and plugging for us were actually cutting our throats. They weren't helping us out at all. We could have been pushed a lot better than we were.

They talked about the Dudleys being the best tag team in ECW, but I think we were better than them. We proved we could wrestle. We wrestled guys like Chris Candido and Lance Storm. We proved we could brawl. We brawled with the Dudleys. I think we could universally do it all, but we never had the opportunity to do it.

NW: If the opportunity presented itself, would you work for the WWF or WCW?

AR: I like the WWF very much. I think they're very creative and that their product is very intelligently done.

WCW is coming into its own right now, so they could be just as successful. They're also becoming a lot more interesting to watch.

I think the big two are becoming a lot more fun, so working for either the WWF or WCW would be a great place to be; I believe they're going to get even better in the future.

NW: Thanks, Axl, for your time. Good luck in your career.

AR: Sure, man, no problem. ***NWW***

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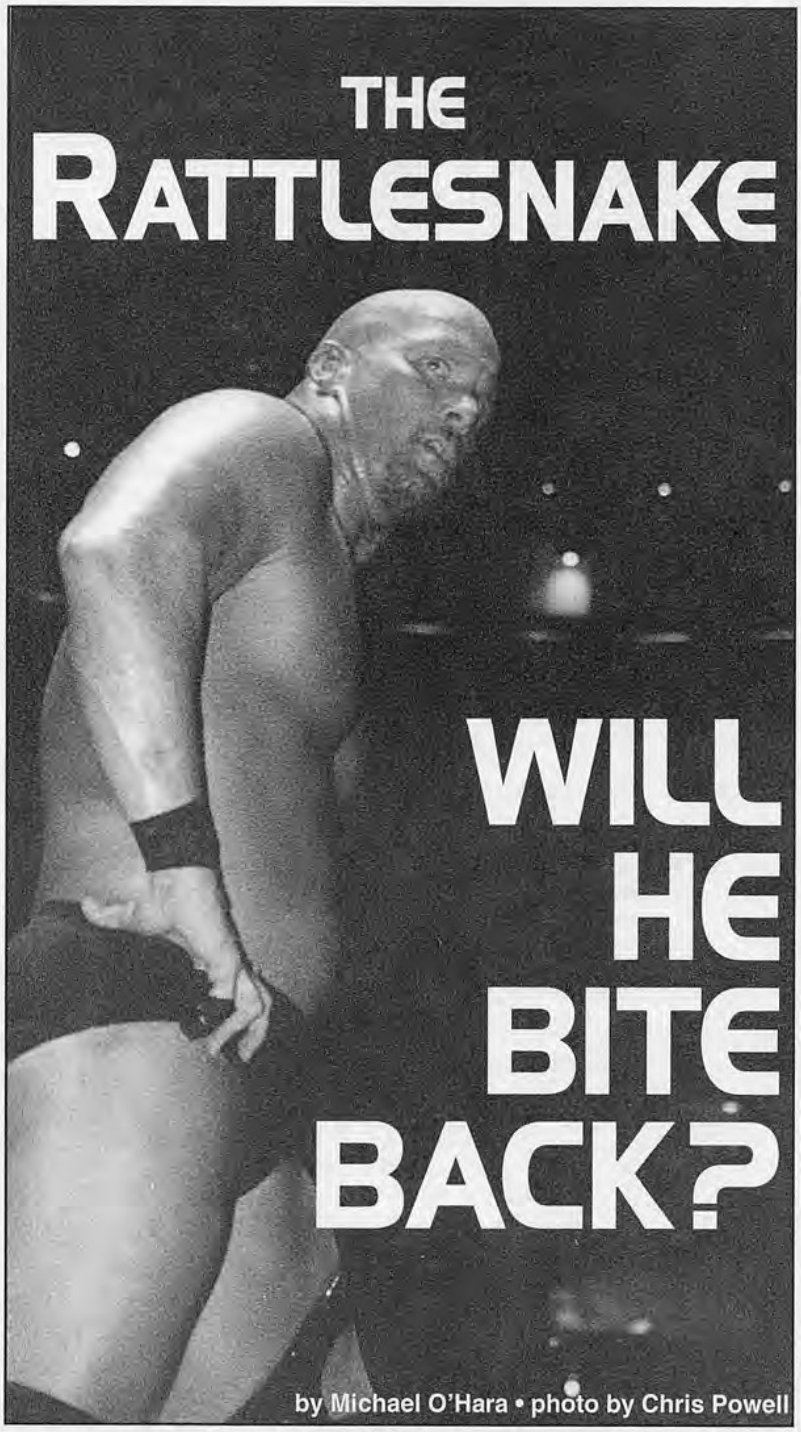

THE RATTLESNAKE WILL HE BITE BACK?

by Michael O'Hara • photo by Chris Powell

Although it's been three months since the *WWF Backlash 2000* pay-per-view held in Washington, D.C., fans are still clamoring for the full-time return of the ol' rattlesnake "Stone Cold" Steve Austin. His brief but extremely pivotal role in the championship main event was an affirming harbinger of positive things to come.

In spite of serious injury, the 35-year old Texas titan made good on his claim to participate in the main event by being in Rocky Maivia's corner. Austin appeared at ringside just long enough to clobber Hunter Hearst Helmsley with a chair and set up the grand finale—a victory for The Rock!

The pay-per-view cameo was a welcome sight, but it's clear that Steve is nowhere near his former fighting form. With slow and steady progress from physical therapy, the determined dynamo is sure to rise to the very pinnacle once more.

Austin has been hard at work mending his damaged frame ever since his fusion surgery on January 17, 2000 to repair the damage done to his C3 and C4 vertebrae in his neck. The bone spur which caused pressure on his neck has been fixed, but the healing has just begun.

When Austin's neck was first injured almost three years ago by the late Owen Hart, he tried to valiantly shake off the effects of the piledriver-gone-wrong, but the damage had been done. If you recall, Owen positioned Steve too deep and when the piledriver was executed, all of Austin's 255-pound frame drove his head and neck into the canvas. The destruction was immediate, and Owen had to literally pull the numb superstar on top of him for the three count.

Riding a wave of popularity, Steve returned to the ring prematurely in order to cash in on his incredible appeal, but over time that move caught up with him to the point that it was no longer possible to continue on without suffering permanent damage.

Since his surgery, the popular WWF superstar has been relentless in his training, and physical therapy has transformed his battered shell back into working condition, but as far as absorbing additional center-ring combat, the verdict is still pending.

His doctors have not dismissed a return to the ring, and a late summer starting date has been bandied about. The general consensus is that he still has to undergo at least six more weeks of therapy, and a verdict will be rendered some time in August.

While "Stone Cold" is revved up to climb back into the ring against Triple H, Rocky Maivia, and The Undertaker, he has taken a pragmatic approach to his situation and has made it clear that he won't come back to the ring unless he can perform at 100% capacity. If the damage is done, he has vowed not to linger around the sport as a shadow of his former self.

The rigors of a wrestling career leaves lasting scars on every professional—both physical and mental. There are few, if any, athletes who don't finally walk (or limp) away from the business with a laundry list of lifelong afflictions. Plastic hips and replaced knees are part of the price most wrestlers must pay at the end of their careers. All the joints of their bodies eventually feel the strain from years of being twisted and pulled into directions in which they were not made to go. The results of such physical abuse are broken hulks suffering from arthritis and physiological damage.

When Austin and his peers look at wrestlers who are 20 years their senior, they are getting a sneak peek at what their mat future may bring. The 60-year-old mat legends are living, breathing embodiments of how much the body can endure and

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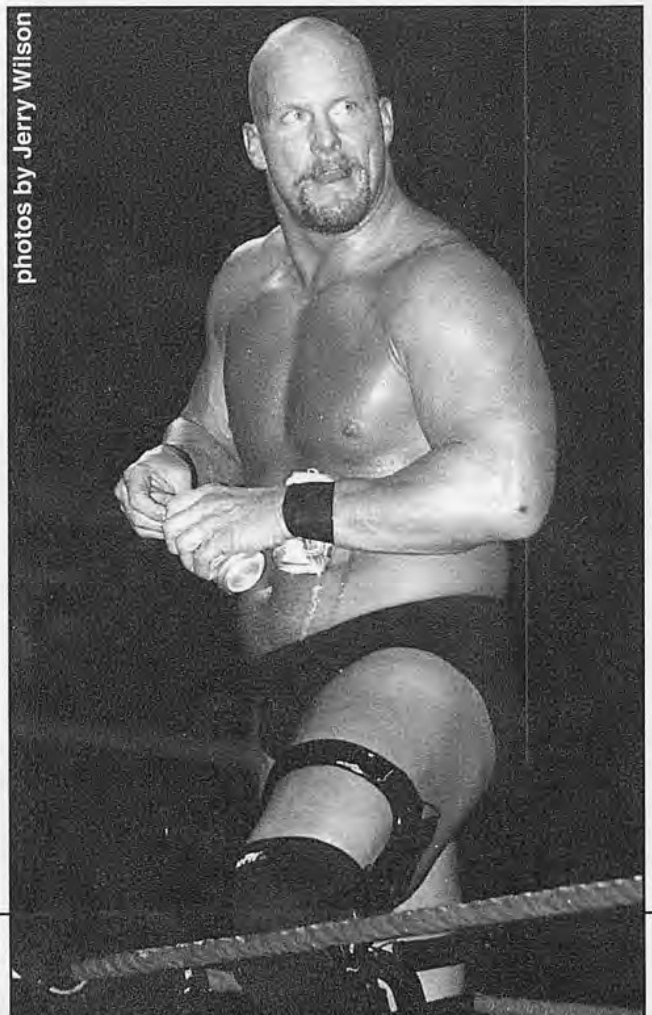


photos by Jerry Wilson

what it cannot. Cauliflower ears and visual scars are just the cosmetic side. The nerve damage, brain injury, equilibrium imbalances, and relentless body aches are invisible to the naked eye, but every move, every breath is a reminder of the battles won and lost, the price paid for a fluttering moment of ring greatness.

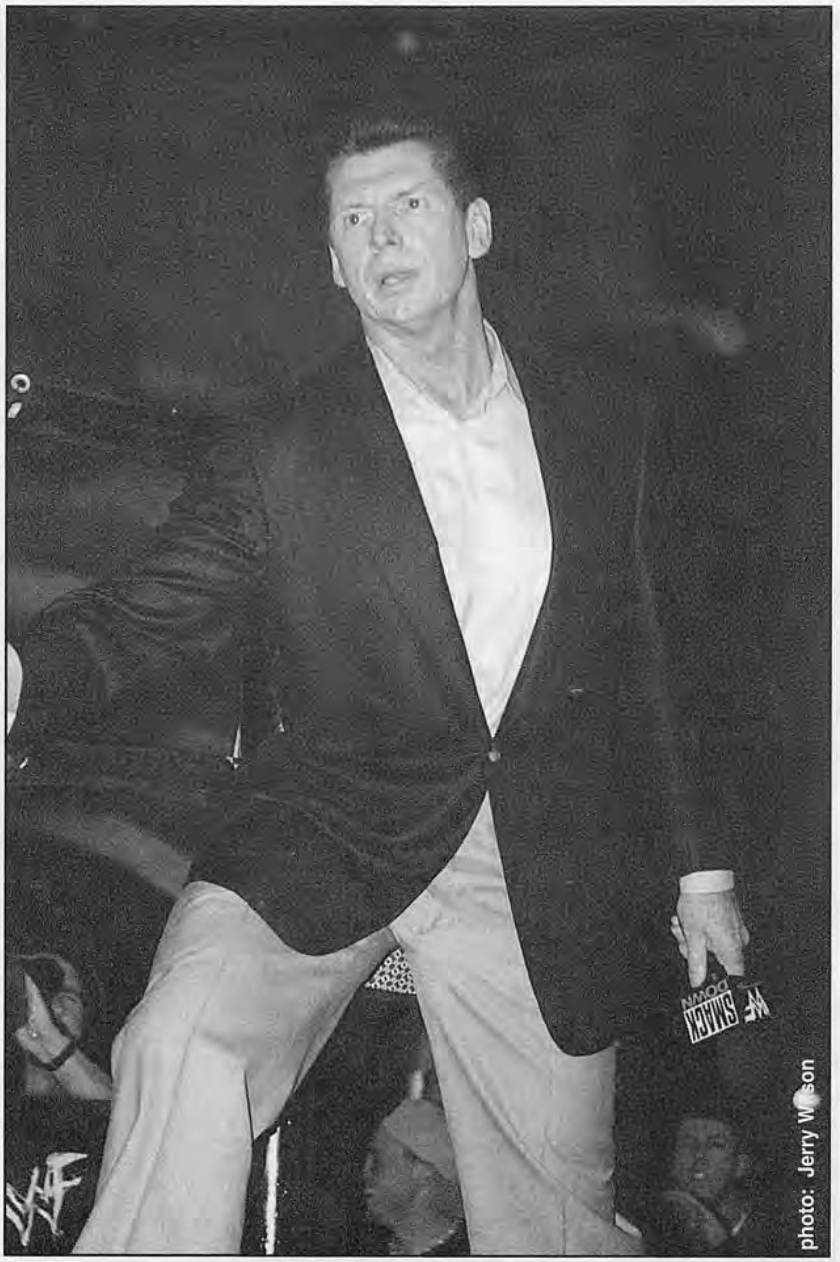
Will Steve Austin's passion for the slammin' sport be strong enough to weather the storms yet to come, or is it time to seriously consider other avenues of adventure? He's already won the critics over with his appearances on the TV series *Nash Bridges*, and there is tremendous interest by Hollywood producers to create a project tailor-made for his unique presence.

When someone like Steve has worked so long and hard to achieve a goal, it is understandable how hard it is to walk away from a dream which has encompassed your entire being. Steve worked his way up through the Texas independents; mid-card status in WCW; a brief but worthwhile stint in ECW; and eventually megastardom in the WWF. He's set record TV and ppv ratings, and he has almost singlehandedly been responsible for the Federation's return to prominence over the last few years. As one of the strongest forces in matdom, he has made a lasting impact on the way wrestling is promoted.

Will "The Rattlesnake" bite back? One thing is certain, if he desires it badly enough, there's nothing in the world that will stop him from achieving his objective. Damaged vertebrae and broken bones are no match for a determined mind and heart of a lion. When it comes to intensity and determination, Steve Austin is indestructible. ***NWW***

Has Vinnie Mac Become the Whole WWF'n Show?

by Michael O'Hara



Since its inception back in the early 1960s, the World Wrestling Federation's amazing success was based upon the formula of pitting fan favorites against the most heinous rule-breakers imaginable, but in recent years that matchmaking philosophy has given way to the emergence of the "gray" wrestler, not quite a hero, but also not quite a heel. The list of such wrestlers is endless, Rocky Maivia, Steve Austin, and The Undertaker, to name a few.

Bona fide ring villains still exist, but the way the business is today, they no longer have the same sharpened psychological "teeth" of their predecessors, such as the Sheik or Abdullah the Butcher. While Val Venis, The Godfather, and Kurt Angle have created a niche in villainy, the true protagonist of the WWF soap opera is none other than Federation honcho Vince McMahon Jr., who once proclaimed himself the "Walt Disney of Professional Wrestling." In the many years since that statement was made on CNN's *Larry King Live*, McMahon's involvement in the ring has been the highlight of the weekly slamfests-turned-gabfests most of the time.

Somehow "Vinnie Mac" has tapped into the zeitgeist of this generation. As the multimillionaire boss and perennial self-absorbed father figure, his ring character has become a villain for the new breed of fan. Gone are the days of the stereotyped ethnic mat invaders. They have been replaced by arrogant abusers of economic power. It never fails whenever The Rock or Stone Cold lays a heavy fist on Vince's noggin that the arena explodes in frenzied approval.

McMahon has comfortably embraced his role as a new millennium corporate villain just as he accepted his varied personae throughout the decades. The successful ring entrepreneur has shed his skin again and again only to appear ever resplendent in a shiny new role. Clearly, whatever Vince was then, he isn't now, and what he portrays today, he'll probably be someone else tomorrow or the day after.

One thing can be said of the WWF kingpin, he never misses an opportunity to push his product deeper into the psyche of the American pop consciousness, whether it's by receiving the lion's share of media attention in his ongoing war with Ted Turner and his World Championship Wrestling, or his less than angelic depiction in various award-winning documentaries.

Whenever given the chance, McMahon uses television as his own economic battleground. While appearing on NBC's *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, he was quick to make his opinion known regarding his rassling rival Ted Turner.

"All I'll say about Ted is he's a son-of-a-b#!*h. Other than that, he's probably not such a bad guy, but I don't like him at all," proclaimed McMahon.

When looking over McMahon's tenure at the helm of Titan Sports, it has been filled with controversy from the beginning. After acquiring the promotion from

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his father, Vince Sr., back in 1983, the young entrepreneur quickly went to work at dismantling the exclusive territories of the regional mat monarchs. He refused to participate with the unwritten agreements of the powerful parochial promoters who had turned the local circuits into monopolies, and he took it one step further by gobbling up the top stars of every regional circuit with contracts and guarantees, eventually invading the same regions using their very own hometown heroes as draws.

Within five years, the regional circuits had shriveled up and died. The American Wrestling Association closed its doors. Stampede Wrestling of Calgary, Canada and the NWA's Toronto booking offices were purchased. National Wrestling Alliance enclaves in Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Michigan, California, and most points in between dropped off the face of the earth. In the process, McMahon's WWF went nationwide and the remaining rivals were eventually absorbed into Jim Crockett's NWA Mid-Atlantic promotion, which also expanded to national prominence.

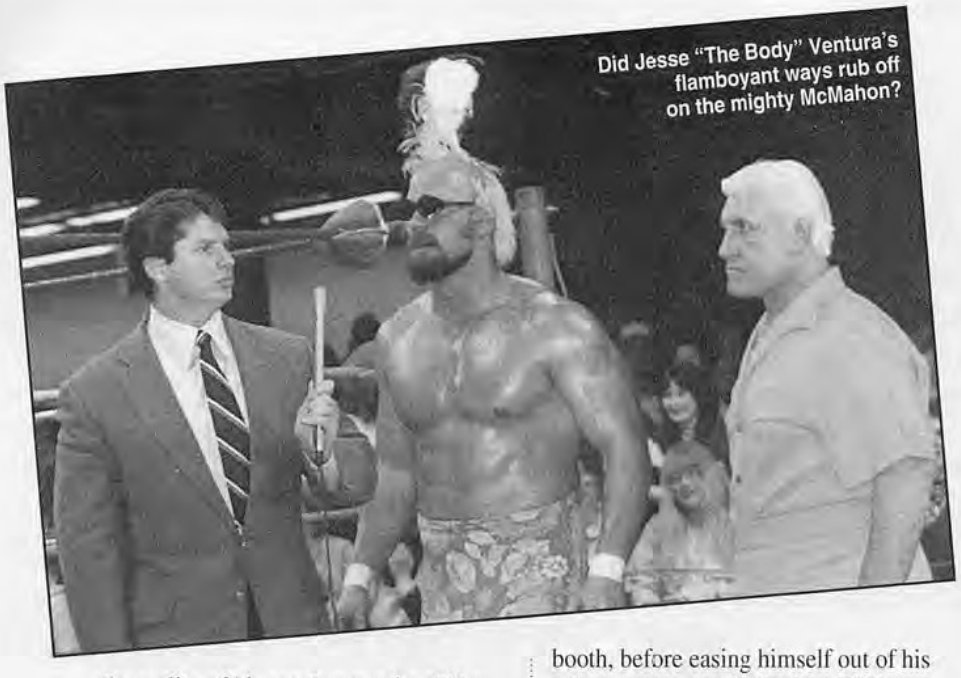
Vince's current mat incarnation is a vast departure from his 1970s persona as an ersatz Howard Cosell.

Crockett eventually sold to Ted Turner, who, in turn, merged with Time Warner, which leads us right up to the current cable TV wrestling wars.

Ironically, one man's desire to "have it all" had a serious and possibly irreversible effect on the fragile ecosystem of regional rassling. Putting it bluntly, it has resulted in the demise of regional territories that were rich in local flavor. Realistically, the two major-league corporate promotions present a homogeneous product, heavy on crude, lewd sensationalism, but lacking in geographic texture.

From humble beginnings, Vince turned the successful Northeast-based organization into a $750-million "sports entertainment" phenom. He has opened the first of probably many theme restaurants, his company (known as World Wrestling Federation Entertainment) has gone public, and his latest venture XFL, a "smash mouth" football league looms on the horizon.

While McMahon's "character" is portrayed as a guy who grew up with the proverbial family fortune at his disposal,



Did Jesse "The Body" Ventura's flamboyant ways rub off on the mighty McMahon?

the reality of his youth was a far different story. As a self-professed arrogant youngster, he wound up getting beaten up by his peers for his smart-aleck comments on a regular basis. His unruly conduct eventually became his undoing and he was given a choice between reform or military school. He chose Fishburne Military School, where he met a fellow cadet named John Sullivan, who would later wrestle in the WWF as "Luscious" Johnny Valiant. McMahon's less-than-stellar personality eventually earned him the distinction of being the first cadet to ever be court-martialed at Fishburne.

He went on to East Carolina State University and earned a degree in business administration. With diploma in hand, Vince went into the world of sales, representing a variety of products from paper cups to office machines.

With lukewarm success quickly becoming a way of life, he reluctantly entered the family business in 1971 and found steady work as the promotion's television play-by-play announcer. It must have been a hard decision to make considering that Vince Jr. was ten years old before he even met Vince Sr.!

For the next 15 years, he employed a threadbare Howard Cosell impersonation while sharing the commentary booth with the likes of Antonino Rocca, Bruno Sammartino, and Pat Patterson. It looked as if Vince circa 1975 had reached the apex of his station in life.

It was not until the late 1980s, with the arrival of Jesse Ventura as cohost, that McMahon finally found his voice as an interesting sportscaster. He continued the winning tradition in a lengthy association with Jerry Lawler in the commentary booth, before easing himself out of his role as announcer in the late 1990s.

It was not until the defection of several top wrestlers to WCW in the late 1990s that a punishing economic counterhold was finally employed on the winning promoter. The Turner-owned league started buying top talent at any cost. The WWF's established star base of Hogan, Kevin Nash, Scott Hall, and Randy Savage jumped ship, leaving McMahon to develop his talented second-string stars—Shawn Michaels, Bret Hart, and The Undertaker.

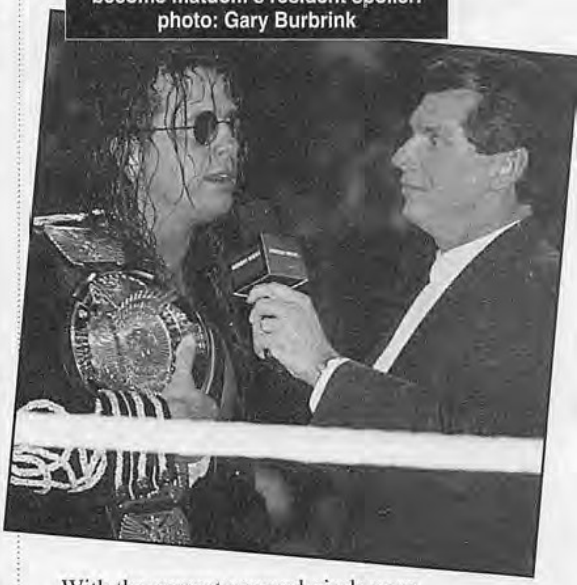
In the midst of Vince's struggles, a Canadian documentary company was producing a biography on Bret Hart. Serendipitously, the film crew was on hand to chronicle the WWF's most desperate hour, and, in the process, captured the development of "Mister McMahon," the ultimate corporate thug! Another setback was about to become a new vista of opportunity.

The defection of Bret has been well-documented and resulted in McMahon becoming vilified in the media. Hart had been called upon to do the "traditional" thing in the WWF—namely, pass the baton to Shawn Michaels. To make a long story short, Hart lost the title and McMahon gained a black eye, both physically (courtesy of Bret) and figuratively (via the documentary).

"The Hitman" headed to WCW, while McMahon, on the other hand, utilized his notoriety to shed his 1980s persona as the straight man to his colorful play-by-play cohosts. He initially tried to position Bret as the source of the problem by uttering the famous quote, "I didn't screw Bret. Bret screwed Bret." The fans were having none of this feeble attempt at damage control. Whenever Vince appeared at ringside, he was met with a barrage of jeers at a decibel level greater than any received by his scripted heels. Without missing a heartbeat, the wily ringmaster decided to go with the flow.

The promoter first began his latest incarnation as a comic foil to the bombastic antics of Steve Austin, but Vince's role began to take on darker hues. He became even more theatrical and eventually made his way into the ring, spiking pay-per-view revenues enormously. McMahon became his own best villain, and he quickly positioned his most intense storylines around the age-old saga of the Everyman waging his personal war against a system where everything is stacked against him. In the process, Steve's popularity soared into the stratosphere, while McMahon became the man fans loved to hate.

If not for Bret Hart's defection to WCW, Vince would never have become matdom's resident spoiler. photo: Gary Burbrink



With the current squared-circle soap opera showing no signs of slowing down, one has to wonder what Vince can possibly do for an encore. As the resident incarnation of evil, "The Vin Man" has decided to remain in the mix of things as the embodiment of obnoxiousness at least for the foreseeable future.

With the entire McMahon clan all entrenched in the storylines, they have become as important to the ratings as any of the bull-necked bone benders, which may or may not be such a good thing in the long run. For better or worse, it has become clear that there isn't a WWF rulebreaker on the horizon who can steal Vince's thunder. ***NWW***

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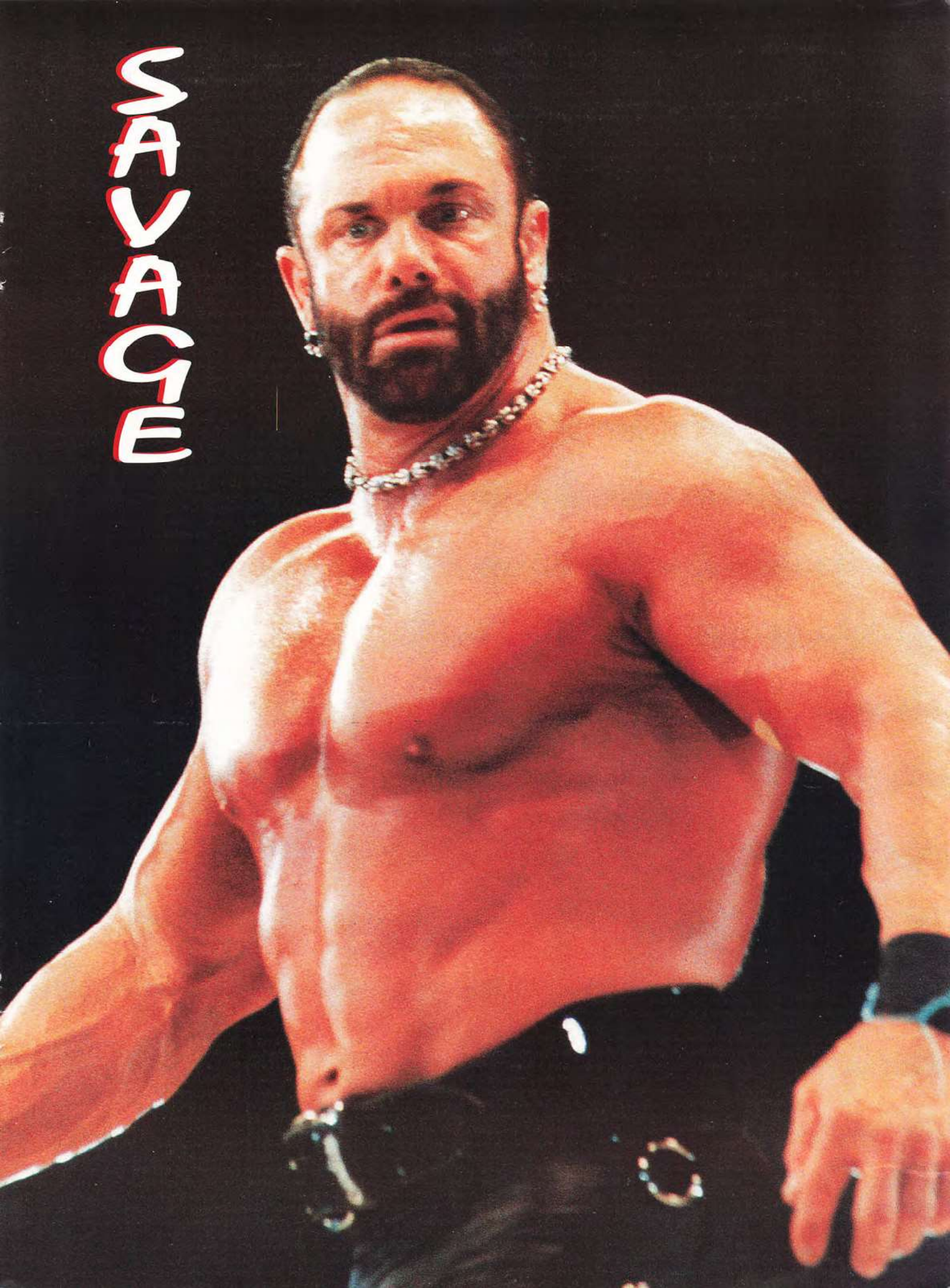
SAVAGE

Kimona

Kimona

photo: Howard Kernats

NW: HOW DID YOU BREAK INTO PRO WRESTLING?
K: I started with ECW as everybody knows. I knew Raven and he asked me to come to one of the shows, which I did. I never watched wrestling before and I knew nothing about it at all. It was very crowded at this ECW show. I couldn't see since I'm 5 foot something, so I stepped on to a platform where I wasn't supposed to be; suddenly, the whole crowd just turned around and pointed at me. *[Laughs]* They thought I was part of the show. I didn't know if they expected me to jump through some tables or what. I didn't know if it was good or bad, but I got a job the next day. *[Laughs]*
NW: What was your training like?
K: ECW trained me and most of the other women, especially since many girls like Francine take bumps. When you're there, they show you moves; they tell you to tuck your head and see where everything falls. *[Laughs]*
NW: Have you taken any bumps?
K: Yes, a few months ago I did a cage match at one of the indie shows. I'm used to taking bumps in cat fights.
NW: Why did you pick managing as opposed to wrestling?
K: To be quite honest with you, I've watched female wrestling and I think the men look a lot better than the women. Except for the Japanese female wrestlers who really wrestle, and I know some men who are afraid to wrestle them because they're really violent, the women are basically eye candy. I really do. We have our cat fights, a little bra removed here and there, but I like the managing part a lot more.
NW: How do you stay in shape?
K: I eat once a day and go for long walks. I figured if you watch what you eat, don't eat too much, and go for long walks, that should be enough.
NW: What are your vital statistics?
K: I'm 5-foot-1 on my good days; my weight goes up and down between 98 and 100 pounds. Two pounds means a lot to a woman. I'm also a 34D.
NW: Was working for ECW a positive experience for you?
K: Yes and no. Gosh, I learned a lot, I'll tell you that. You really do learn about the business and the people you deal with. The positive thing I can say about it is that it got my foot into the business, and the whole controversy with what happened after I left was the negative part. It was a big negative.
NW: Let's stay with that. Explain how you came to dance atop the eagle's nest

interview by Craig Prendergast

photo: Craig Prendergast

in the ECW arena.

K: It happened in Philadelphia during the main event. Everyone knows the Philly crowds are wild and crazy and very aggressive. What happened was the ring broke. It was the last match and I don't know what happened. I think there was even an electrical failure earlier on that night. It was just a bad night overall.

Anyway, the ring broke, the crowd was screaming for a refund, and a riot was brewing. Next thing I know Paul E. is screaming for me to get out there, so I went out. They played two songs and I did a striptease. They said I was nude, but I wasn't. Many fans were very disappointed when they got the tape and realized I was not nude. Nothing was showing. I had a bodysuit on.

NW: I think this was the last time you were in ECW. Is that right?

K: Yes, that was the last time I was there. Some people felt that what I did took away from the ring action that night. They had some great matches and thought that the stripping had no place on the show or in the wrestling business. Everyone knew that I never said oh, please pick me for the spot. It just happened that I was told to do it, and I did what I did.

NW: You did what you were told and they still got rid of you?

K: I quit. I was never fired. I quit only because I was 18 at the time and I really didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. I knew I wanted to stay in the entertainment business, so I decided to take some speech and acting classes. As soon as I quit, the tape was released and I never saw one cent out of it.

After I left ECW, everybody always wondered why they never announced that I had left. I wasn't on the internet at the time, so I never knew about all the rumors and how big it was until now. I still read about it to this day.

NW: Do you have a full-time job?

K: Wrestling is my full-time thing now.

NW: Weren't you once an exotic dancer?

K: Yes, I was dancing when I was working with ECW, but it was in New Jersey, which is quite strict. It's basically a bikini and thong show. You see more on the beach.

NW: How did you get involved with dancing?

K: A friend of mine started dancing. She was a few years older than me and she said you've got to try this. It's neat and pretty different, plus you make a ton of money. You really do.

NW: Do you prefer dancing or managing wrestlers?

K: Definitely, managing. I quit dancing 3 or 4 years ago, so I'm back into wrestling. Dancing was basically a job to pay my rent.

NW: Are you making a living as a wrestling manager now?

K: Yes, I am.

NW: How did you wind up in WCW?

K: After I left ECW, I swore I would never go back into wrestling at all. Never say never. All of a sudden, I was called to do some independent shows. I said to myself that if I'm going to do indies then I may as well go for the big time. If I'm going to be involved, I want the major TV exposure scene.

I was actually on my way to the WWF. Terry Taylor was bringing me in there. He introduced me to Vince Russo and everything was basically a go. Then a week later, Vince Russo left for WCW, and a couple of weeks after that, Terry Taylor left. I waited to see what would happen. I really wanted to work with Vince Russo, so I went over to WCW.

NW: How do your parents feel about you being a wrestling manager?

K: I don't even think my parents know. I

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haven't talked to them for about six years.
NW: Sorry to hear about that.
K: That's okay.
NW: What interests do you have outside of wrestling?
K: Believe it or not, my big hobby is Japanese animation. I love all the Manga stuff. I'm very big into a show called *Dragonball Z*. I'd really like to get involved with it somehow. I was actually asked at one point to pose for *Vampirella* magazine, that's what sparked my interest in all this stuff.
NW: What would you say is the best thing about wrestling?
K: The exposure is definitely number one. Traveling and meeting people is also a big plus. I love traveling very much.
NW: What is the worst thing?
K: The worst thing is sometimes you get judged before people even know who you are, but that's entertainment in general.
NW: What advice do you have for any aspiring women looking to break into the wrestling business?
K: Basically, you've got to stick to your guns. Keep pushing and pushing. Look how long it took me. I left the wrestling scene for four or five years and now I'm back on top again. You can't give up.
NW: Have you had any problems being a woman in a male-dominated business?
K: No, not at all. The men are really very kind, almost like older brothers watching over you. I've never had any problems with any of the wrestlers. No one has treated me badly or anything like that.
NW: What would you like to do in the future?
K: I would like to stay in wrestling for as long I can. I'm also looking to get involved in acting.
NW: Do you have a website?
K: No, I do not have a website. I'm not connected with any site. They basically print rumors or make something up. There have been many problems for me with what they write. People have confronted me about it, and I tell them that I don't have a website, that I don't know where they're getting their information from. When I do get a website, I'll let everyone know.
NW: Now that that's cleared up, thanks for your time, Kimona. Good luck to you in your career.
K: All right. Thank you. ***NWW***

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Linda Doan (46), RR#4 Durham, Ontario, Nogiro, Canada–Favorites: Bret Hart, X-Pac, Undertaker, and Rock.

Steven Clark (18), email: Cartman93065@yahoo.com or Stevocool@HotMail.com or 4448 Bart Griffin Rd., Maryville, TN 37803-Wanted: Fans of DX, Mick Foley, Stone Cold, and Outsiders.

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Mike "Machinegun" Walls (age 21) 4303 Aggie Rd., #17, Jonesboro, AR 72401. Wanted: All fans of Hulk Hogan, Jerry "The King" Lawler, Wrath, Bill Goldberg, and Bam Bam Bigelow.

Wanted: Female fans (25-42) of Austin, Hogan, Magnum T.A., and the late Dick the Bruiser.

Claudia Schaeffler (16), Buergleiner Str. 6, 91560 Heilsbronn, Germany-Wanted: Fans from all over the world of Stevie Richards and Juventud Guerrerea!

Chris Perkins (22), 726 Yale Ln., Deer Park, TX 77536. Favorites: Mankind, Shawn Michaels, Arn Anderson, Benoit, Raven, and Rob Van Dam.

Hugo Henao (26), 1016 Bryant Ave., Apt. 3D, Bronx, NY 10459–Wanted: Fans of Steve Austin, Undertaker, Triple H, and Rock.

Justin Allen (14), 3661 Lick Run Rd., Chillicothe, OH 45601-Favorites: Kane, Steve Austin, Raven, Gangrel, Sable, and Chavo.

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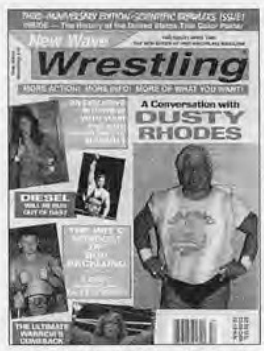

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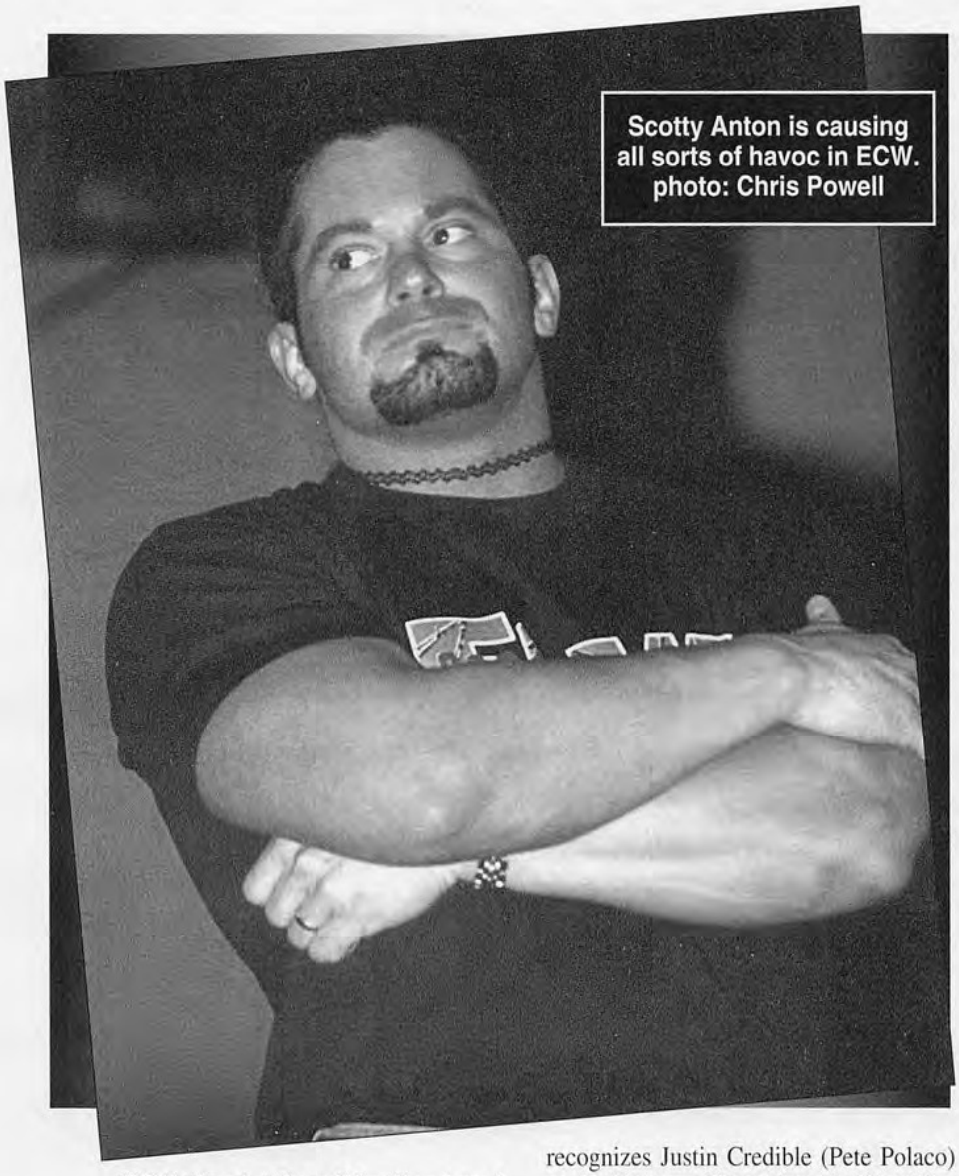
The INDEPENDENT Scene

compiled by Michael O'Hara



Scotty Anton is causing all sorts of havoc in ECW. photo: Chris Powell

CZW: Combat Zone Wrestling, based in Mantua, New Jersey, promotes high-risk match action comprised primarily of their fearless (and very crazy) students from their wrestling school.

Zandig is recognized as their World champion...CZW tag kingpins The Haas Brothers are feuding with the Hate Club...Justin Pain and Lobo are battling over the Hardcore title...Rick Blade holds the junior-heavyweight gold.

ECW: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania's Extreme Championship Wrestling recognizes Justin Credible (Pete Polaco) as the Extreme Championship Wrestling heavyweight kingpin. Hot on his trail is Tommy Dreamer (Thomas Laughlin).

Rob Van Dam (Robert Szatkowski) returned to action a few months ago and seems to have healed nicely. Needless to say, regaining the ECW World TV title is a top priority for him as we go to press.

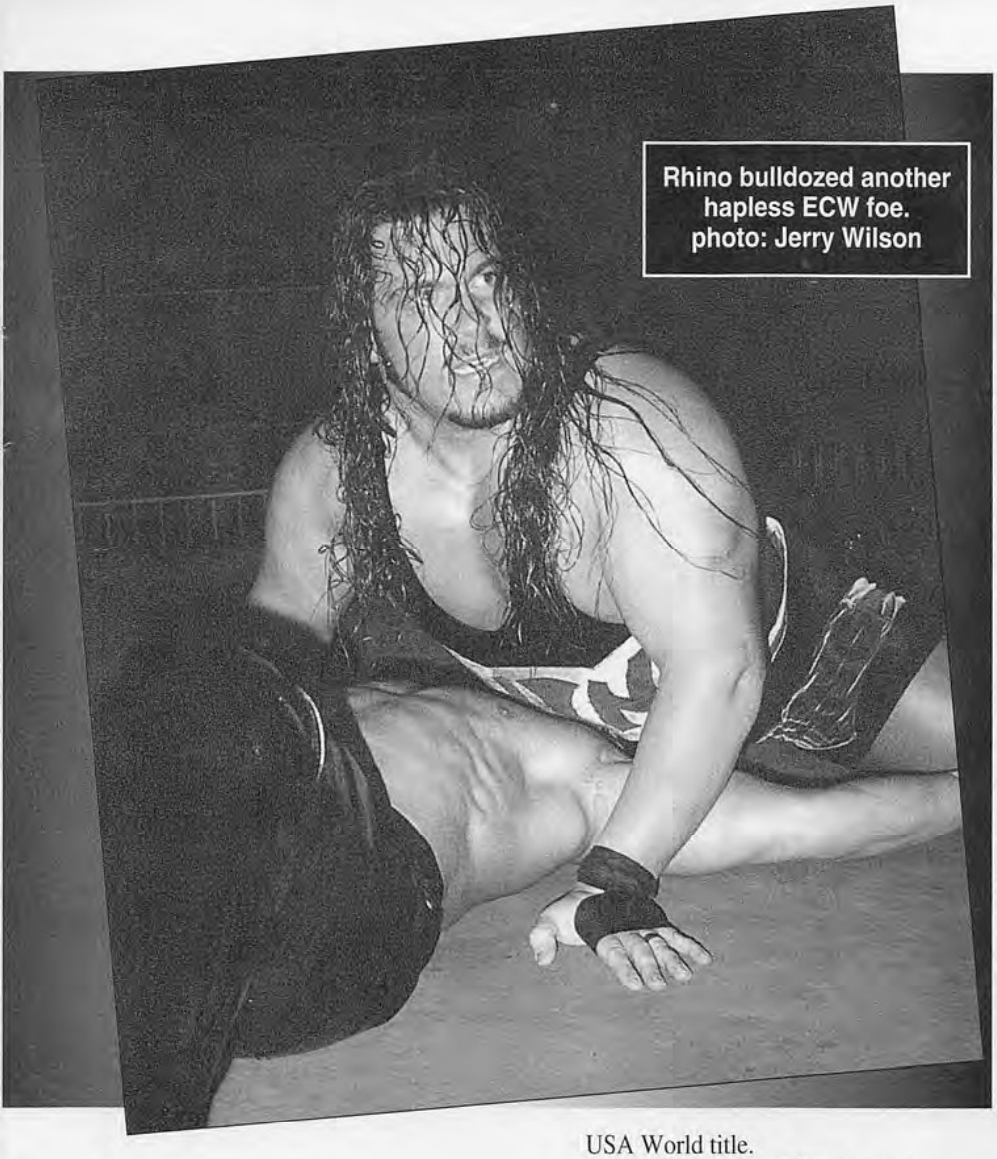
Raven (Scott Levy) is allegedly looking to be released from his ECW contract so that he can jump ship to the WWF! Some of you may recall that Raven once worked for the Federation under the guise of Johnny Polo, manager of the Quebecers.

Lance Storm (Lance Evers) has left ECW and will now seek greater victories under the WCW banner...24-year-old Rhino continues to impress fans with his intensity...Dusty Rhodes (Virgil Runnels) continues to battle against Steve Corino and Jack Victory (Ken Rhinehurst).

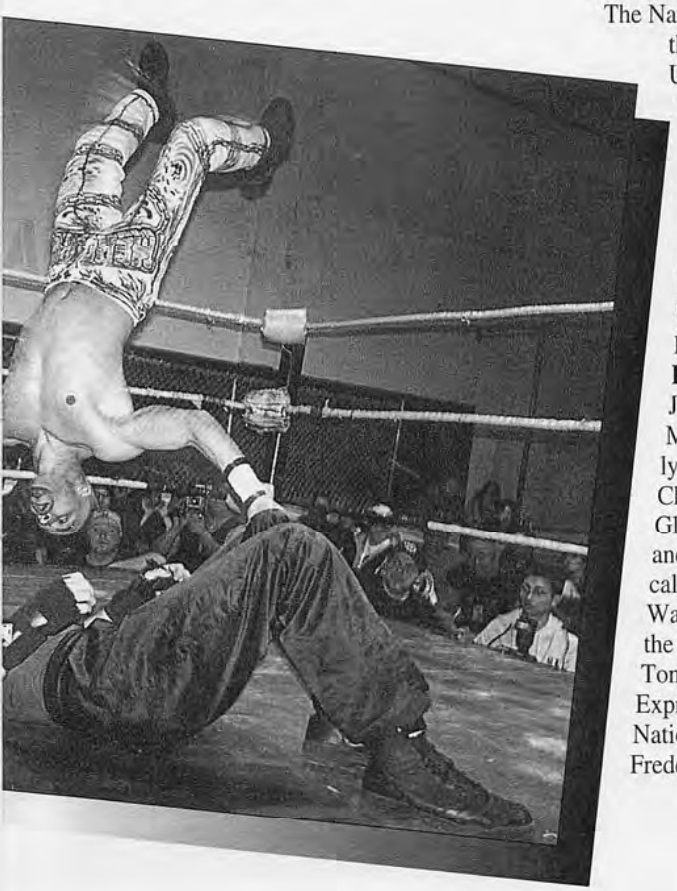
Others on the circuit include: The Sandman (Jim Fullington), Mikey Whipwreck (John Watson), Super Crazy (Francisco Pantoja Islas), Uganda (Ben Peacock), Balls Mahoney (John Rickner), Spike Dudley (Matt Hyson), Cyrus (Don Callis), Little Guido (James Moritato), Amish Roadkill (Michael DePoli), and New Jack (Jerome Young).

USA: Based in the metropolitan New York City area, this league boasts a sizable roster of name talent. Tommy Cairo defeated Axl Rotten to capture the vacant

Mercury makes a direct hit on Rick Blade during this Combat Zone Wrestling clash. photo: Craig Prendergast



Rhino bulldozed another hapless ECW foe. photo: Jerry Wilson



USA World title.

The Natural Born Killers upset the Boogie Knights for the USA tag-team championship… Manny Fernandez holds the New York State belt…The United States titleholder is The Masked Maniac.

Others on the circuit include: King Kong Bundy, Julio Fantastico, Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka, Rocco Rock, and The Equalizer.

Ring Rumblings: "Handsome" Jimmy Valiant, Fabulous Moolah, and Mae Young recently competed for Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling…In Glen Burnie, Maryland, Animal and Hawk, who are once again calling themselves The Road Warriors, returned to action under the MCW banner…The Honky Tonk Man and The Rock & Roll Express recently competed for the National Wrestling League in Frederick, Maryland. ***NWW***

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NWW REMEMBERS

Bobby Duncum Jr.
photo: Don Laible

Gary Albright, 36, a three-time all-American for the University of Nebraska, died from a heart attack on January 7, 2000 after collapsing during a World Xtreme Wrestling match held in Hazleton, Pennsylvania.

Albright had gained an impressive reputation as a topnotch wrestler in Japan, and he was hopeful of developing a similar name for himself in American rings at the time of his premature death.

"Kangaroo" Al Costello (Giacoma Costa), 80, died January 23, 2000 from complications of pneumonia and heart failure. Costello was part of the famed Fabulous Kangaroos tag team with original partner Roy Heffernan and later Don Kent. In the 1970s, he turned his attention to managing as well as training grapplers for the professional ring.

Costello managed a "New Fabulous Kangaroos" team in the early 1990s comprised of Denny Kass and Al Snow (of WWF fame).

"Cowboy" Bobby Duncum Jr., 34, was found dead in his apartment on January 24, 2000. Duncum had recently gone through a divorce and had parted ways with WCW at the time of his passing.

The second-generation wrestler (son of "Cowboy" Bob Duncum Sr.) had been developing into a solid performer as a member of the West Texas Red Necks with partners Barry & Kendall Windham and Curt Hennig.

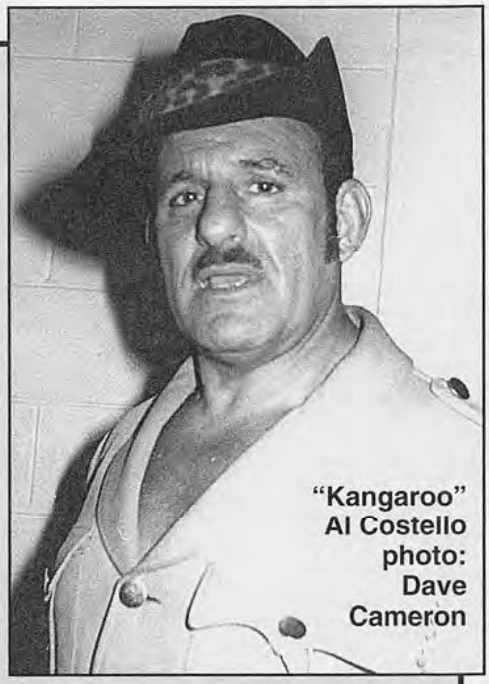
Jesse James (Jimmy James), 83, died at a nursing home in North Carolina on May 9, 2000. He began his 38-year wrestling career prior to World War II and continued during his service time in the US Army performing wrestling exhibitions throughout the United States.

While traveling the wrestling circuits, he met his wife Tammy Jones, who also wrestled professionally. She preceded him in death in January 2000.

He retired from the sport in 1974 in Charlotte where he had worked for Jim Crockett Promotions for many years.

Jerry Monti, 57, died on December 3, 1999 after a lengthy battle with liver cancer. Monti was a staple performer in San Francisco, California throughout the 1960s and 70s.

Tom Renesto, 72, passed away on April 25, 2000 from unknown circumstances. Renesto will be best remembered as one half of the famed original Assassins tag team which dominated the South in the 1960s and 70s.


"Kangaroo" Al Costello photo: Dave Cameron

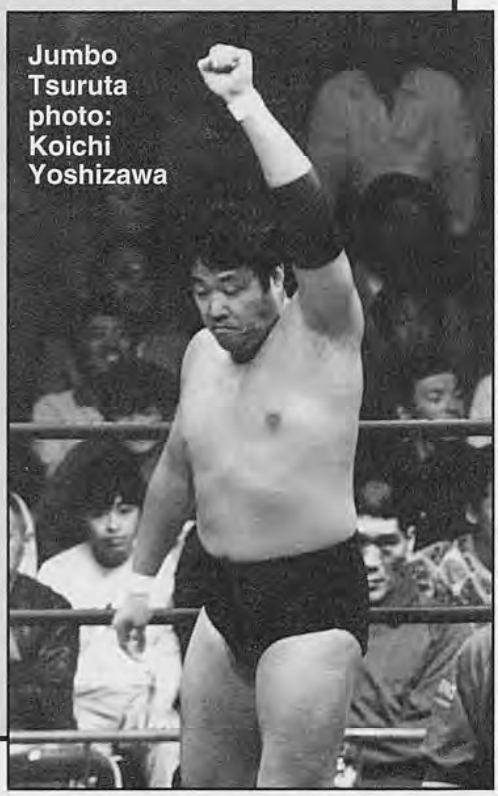
Jumbo Tsuruta (Tomori Tsuruta), 48, died from complications of hepatitis.

Tsuruta was a 1972 Olympic wrestler who went on to become one of the top stars for All-Japan Wrestling throughout the 1970s and 80s.

He defeated Nick Bockwinkel in 1984 for the American Wrestling Association World heavyweight title.

He became the first Triple Crown champion by unifying the NWA International belt with the NWA United National and PWF titles.

He retired from the ring in 1992 as a result of failing health. Most recently, he was an assistant professor at the University of Oregon.


Jumbo Tsuruta photo: Koichi Yoshizawa

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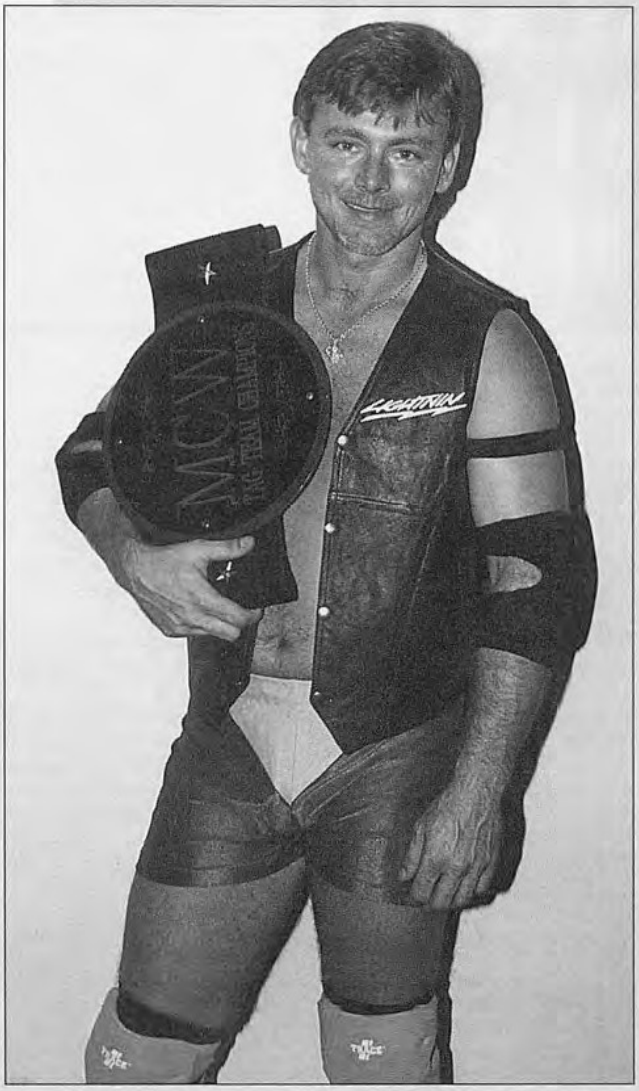
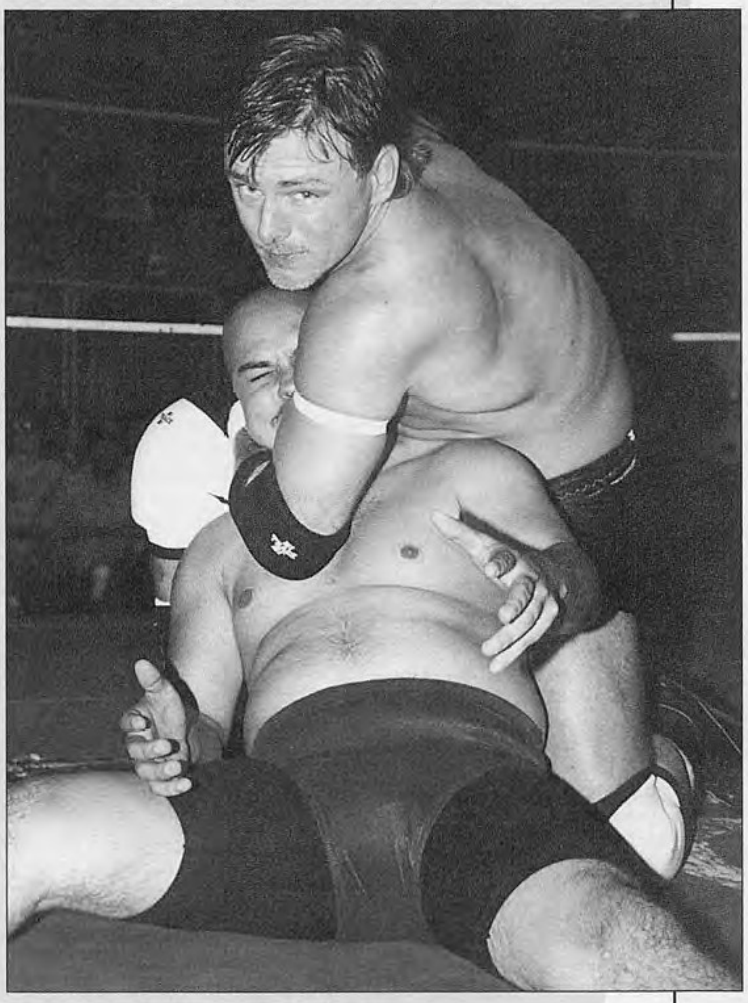


White Lightnin'

NW: WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR TRAINING?
WL: Moondog Spot moved to Osceola, Arkansas, which is where I am from, and started Moondog Championship Wrestling with Big Daddy LaFonce. They also opened the MCW school, and I decided to give it a shot.
NW: Who trained you?
WL: Moondog Spot trained me.
NW: Did you watch wrestling as a kid?
WL: Yes, I watched it every Saturday morning. I watched Memphis wrestling, Bill Watts's group, and Georgia Championship Wrestling.
NW: When did you make your pro-wrestling debut?
WL: I had my first match on May 14, 1996.
NW: Who was your opponent?
WL: It was a wrestler by the name of Derrick King. He now works for Power Pro.
NW: After your first few matches, did you feel you were going to stay in wrestling?
WL: Yes, even after I sustained my first few injuries, I felt I made the right choice! I enjoy wrestling.
NW: What is your real name? How old are you?
WL: My name is Jerry Smith and I'm 32 years old. I was born on April 8, 1968.
NW: Are you married or single?
WL: I am married and I have three kids.
NW: Have you wrestled as part of a tag team?
WL: Yes. I teamed with Midnite Cowboy as The Dynasty. Our manager was Mercedez. I enjoyed teaming with him until he had a change of attitude.

Currently, I'm tag-team champion with Titanic.
NW: Do you have a full-time job?
WL: Yes, I do. I am a funeral director.
NW: How do you relax?
WL: I like to spend time with my family. I also enjoy listening to gospel and classic rock.
NW: Do you enjoy working on the independent scene?
WL: I do. They give you a chance to practice your moves and improve your skills as you go along.



interview & photos by Jerry Wilson

NW: Which promotions have you worked for so far?
WL: I've wrestled for Moondog Championship Wrestling, SWA, and Hoosier Pro Wrestling.
NW: Who are your favorite wrestlers?
WL: I like Sting, Chris Benoit, Moondog Spot, and Big Daddy LaFonce. Moondog and Big Daddy are also close friends of mine.
NW: Have you held any titles?
WL: Yes. I've held the MCW heavyweight belt twice, the MCW middleweight belt once, and the MCW tag-team belt three times.
NW: Who has been your toughest opponent so far?
WL: My toughest opponent was Ron McClarity.
NW: What does it take to be successful in the ring?
WL: You definitely need a big heart and a good attitude to succeed in wrestling or anything else you pursue.
NW: What has been your proudest moment since you began your wrestling career?
WL: My proudest moment has been winning the heavyweight title and the tag-team belts.
NW: Would you like to wrestle for the WWF or WCW?
WL: Of course. I believe everyone in wrestling has that dream inside of them.
NW: What are your hopes for your career?
WL: I take life one day at a time and wrestling one match at a time, so I'll see where the road goes. I look forward to raising my three kids and growing old with my wife.
NW: What do you think of your fans?
WL: I love them. I truly thank all the wrestling fans for their support. Pro wrestling would not be what it is today without the fans. The fans are one of the most important ingredients in any successful wrestling show.
NW: Thank you for taking the time to give us this interview. Best of luck to you!
WL: You're welcome. I'd also like to say thanks to ***New Wave Wrestling*** for doing such a great job in giving the fans more information about their favorite sports entertainment than any other magazine. ***NWW***

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AWA's Greatest Title Matches Rick Martel vs. Jumbo Tsuruta. Nick Bockwinkel vs. Verne Gagne. Rick Martel vs. Michael Hayes.

Bad Guys (1985) Two police officers join the rasslin' ranks in this farce-filled film featuring Sgt. Slaughter, Taru Tanaka, Alexi Smirnoff & many others.

Body Slam (1987) A sleazy talent agent decides to promote rock 'n' roll & pro wrestling. Features Roddy Piper, "Captain" Lou Albano, Tonga Kid & others.

Combat Sports® Mat Movie Classics Vol. 1 Gorgeous George's feature-film debut—*Alias the Champ* (1949).

Jim Garvin & Steve Regal The talented twosome battle The Road Warriors, Scott Hall & Curt Hennig & others.

Greatest AWA Tag-Team Bouts Curt Hennig & Greg Gagne vs. Freebirds. "Crusher" Blackwell & Sgt. Slaughter vs. Road Warriors. Mr. Saito & Nick Bockwinkel vs. The Gagnes.

Greatest Sports Legends: Bruno Sammartino Highlights of the WWWF champion's career including clips against Spiros Arion, Stan Hansen, "Killer" Kowalski, Ernie Ladd, Gorilla Monsoon, Buddy Rogers & The Sheik.

Greatest Sports Legends: 101 Superstars Highlights of the great sports figures including WWWF World champion Bruno Sammartino, plus Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and dozens more!

Grunt! The Wrestling Movie (1987) Pro-wrestling star "Mad Dog" Joe DeCurso mysteriously disappears. Some fans think he's dead, why others speculate that he's become a newcomer called The Mask! Features many top stars including: "Exotic" Adrian Street, John Tolos, Victor Rivera, Dick Murdoch, and many more!

Hulk Hogan's AWA Battles Hulk vs. Nick Bockwinkel. Andre & Hulk vs. Heenan, Duncum, Bockwinkel & Ken Patera.

Japan's Greatest Women Wrestlers Yukari Omori & Ayumi Hori vs. Noriyo Tateno & Itsuki Yamasaki. Masked You & Kaoru Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Nagayo Chigusa. Rimi Yokota vs. Las Garacita. Rimi Yokota vs. Tenjin Masami.

Mad Bull (1979) Alex Karras plays a pro wrestler troubled by his devotion to the traditions of his Greco-Roman mat past.

Madison Square Garden's Greatest Wrestling Antonino Rocca against Don Leo Jonathan, Lou Kim, Primo Carnera, and two title bouts with NWA World champ Lou Thesz. Lord Leslie Carlton vs. Johnny Barrend. "Killer" Kowalski vs. Verne Gagne & Gene Stanlee.

Midget Madness A lightheartedly look at Sky Low Low, Little Mr. T, Little Tokyo & others.

Mil Mascaras vs. Los Vampiros de Cayoacan (1968) Matdom's masked great battles ghouls, werewolves & vampires in this classic mat flick. **(SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Neutron vs. The Maniac (1960) The masked hero battles a killer (dubbed in English).

Neutron vs. The Death Robots (1961) Matdom's superhero battles the ultimate killing machine (dubbed in English).

Neutron and The Black Mask (1962) Mexico's hero collides with crooks and their handy bomb! (dubbed in English).

Neutron vs. Dr. Caronte (1962) Our star battles a scientist and his monsters! (in English)

No Holds Barred (1952) The Bowery Boys tackle rasslin' gangsters in this film featuring many greats. Also—*Rasslin' Match*—an Amos & Andy cartoon!

Not-So-Great Moments in Sports Vol. 2 (1988) Weird moments in the sporting world including highlights of Jack Dempsey vs. "Cowboy" Luttrell, Muhammad Ali vs. Antonio Inoki and Chuck Wepner vs. Andre the Giant in boxer vs. wrestler bouts!

The One And Only (1981) Henry "The Fonz" Winkler stars in this flick loosely based on the career of "Gorgeous" George.

Pro-Wrestling's Greatest Heroes Lou Thesz vs. Vic Christy. "Argentina" Rocca vs. Benito Gardini. Ed Carpentier vs. Baron Mikel Scicluna. Ricky Starr vs. Karl von Hess. Bruno Sammartino vs. "Magnificent" Maurice. Verne Gagne vs. Lee Hennig. Gene Stanlee vs. Kola Kwariani. Bobo Brazil vs. Johnny Barrend. Sam Steamboat vs. Mike Sharpe Sr. Great Scott & Rocca vs. Karl & Eric von Hess.

Pro-Wrestling's Greatest Matches Bruno Sammartino vs. Fred Blassie. Buddy Rogers vs. Johnny Valentine. Ed Carpentier & Antonino Rocca vs. Skull Murphy & Pampero Firpo. The Kangaroos & Dr. Jerry Graham vs. Antonino Rocca, Miguel Perez & Ricky Starr. Buddy Rogers vs. Bobo Brazil. Lord James Blears vs. Baron Michele Leone. Mr. Moto vs. Henry Hank. Joe Louis vs. Sky High Lee. Nick Bockwinkel vs. Matt Murphy. Gallaghers vs. "Magnificent" Maurice & Johnny Barrend. Primo Carnera vs. Jim Londos. The Sheik vs. Jim Melby. Buddy Rogers vs. Pat O'Connor.

Pro-Wrestling's Greatest Villains Dr. Jerry & Eddie Graham vs. Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez. Buddy Rogers vs. Abe Jacobs. Fred Blassie vs. The Hangman. "Killer" Kowalski vs. Yukon Eric. Fritz von Erich vs. Bobby Brown. The Millers vs. Kangaroos. Crusher vs. Johnny Valentine. Gorgeous George vs. Larry Moquin. Bruiser & Hans Schmidt vs. Volkoffs. Jack Allen & "Bavarian" Rudy vs. Sicilians.

Racket (Pindown) Girls (1950) Mobsters take advantage of innocent girl grapplers.

The Road Warriors LOD vs. Curt Hennig & Baron von Raschke and The Hennigs.

Santo vs. The Zombie Invasion (1961) A mad scientist and his monster army seek world conquest (dubbed in English).

Santo vs. The Vampire Women (1961) Need we say more? (dubbed in English)

Santo in the Wax Museum (1963) A scientist turns people into wax figures (in English).

Santo's Secret Caribbean Mission (1968) The masked mauler tackles drug dealers. **(SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Santo vs. The Strangler (1964) There's a wild man on a murder spree. **(IN SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Santo and El Tesoro de Moctezuma (1968) The Silver star battles warriors of the past. **(SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Santo vs. The Yellow Mafia (1975) The silver mask versus Yellow Dragon & his drug gang. **(SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Santo vs. Blue Demon in Atlantica (1968) Mexico's two grapplin' greats team to stop an undersea monarch. **(SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Santo & Blue Demon in The World of the Dead (1979) The dynamic duo clash with a ruthless gang of zombie robbers. **(SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Santo's Mystery of the Black Pearl The masked man finds romance and intrigue. **(SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Sgt. Slaughter Vol. 1 Sarge battles Larry Zbyszko, Boris Zhukov, and battle-royal action.

Sgt. Slaughter Vol. 2 Matches with Zbyszko, Zhukov & others.

Secrets of Pro Wrestling This video exposes how all the exciting mat moves are done!

Super Argo (1966) Argo versus humanoids in this Italian entry into the wrestling-hero genre!

Thunder in Paradise Two-hour TV pilot with Hulk Hogan.

Thunderground (1989) The saga of a bare-knuckles brawler (Paul Coufos) and his quest to battle "The Man" (Jesse Ventura), the king of bare-fisted battle.

UWF Wrestling Vol. 1 UWF champion Steve "Dr. Death" Williams vs. "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff in a lumberjack match featuring Cactus Jack, Don "The Rock" Muraco, Tom Brandi & others.

UWF Wrestling Vol. 2 "Wildman" Jack Armstrong & Cactus Jack vs. Chief Strongbow & David Sammartino. The Blackhearts vs. Dave Johnson & Joe DeFuria.

UWF Wrestling Vol. 3 Steve Williams vs. Paul Orndorff in a cage match. "Cowboy" Bob Orton Jr. vs. B. Brian Blair. Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Samoan Afa.

UWF Wrestling Vol. 4 Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff battles Steve Williams, "Cowboy" Bob Orton Jr. & "Spitball" Patterson.

Wacky World of Sports Bob Uecker hosts a program featuring sports bloopers including a profile on Hulk Hogan and the 1980s wrestling craze.

The Wrestling Assassin (1961) A country sheriff tracks down a murderer who happens to be a masked, wrestling champ. **(SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Wrestling Funnies Vol. 1 A lighthearted look at the top wrestlers and valets.

Wrestling Funnies Vol. 2 Another volume of silly slams & hilarious holds featuring Ric Flair, Ron Garvin, JYD, The Rock & Roll Express & more!

Wrestling's Golden Era Vol. 1 Mark Lewin vs. Ox Baker. "Crusher" Verdue vs. "Cowboy" Frankie Laine. Garth Vader vs. Stan "The Man" Stasiak. The Sheik vs. Stan Stasiak. Dr. Jerry Graham vs. T-bolt Patterson.

Wrestling's Golden Era Vol. 2 Mickey Doyle & Billy Red Lyons vs. Angelo & Lanny Poffo. Stan Stasiak vs. Don Kent.

Wrestling's Golden Era Vol. 3 Features "Argentina" Antonino Rocca, Dick the Bruiser, The Sheik & Women wrestlers!

Wrestling's Golden Era Vol. 4 Bruno Sammartino vs. Hans Schmidt. Dr. Jerry & Eddie Graham vs. Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez. Bobo Brazil vs. Sky Hi Lee. The Kangaroos vs. Moose Cholak & The Mighty Atlas. Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard vs. The Bavarian Boys.

Wrestling Queen 1970s documentary on female wrestler Vivian Vachon—features Andre the Giant, The Blackjacks (Mulligan & Lanza), Vachons ("Mad Dog" Maurice & "Butcher" Paul) & many others!

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 1 Andre the Giant vs. The Spoiler. "Bruiser" Brody vs. The Twin Devils. "Maniac" Mark Lewin vs. Dusty Rhodes. "Killer" Tim Brooks & Ivan the Terrible vs. Tiger Conway Jr. & Tiny Tom in a mixed big man/mini match. Victor the Wrestling Bear vs. Manager Gary Hart.

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 2 Ken Patera vs. Jose Lothario. Leroy Brown vs. "Killer" Tim Brooks. Wenona Little Heart vs. Judy Martin. Dusty Rhodes vs. Ivan Koloff in a Coffin Match.

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 3 Dusty Rhodes, "Dirty" Dick Slater & Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat vs. Black Bart, "Outlaw" Ron Bass & Tully Blanchard. "Ragin' Bull" Manny Fernandez & Buzz Tyler vs. Dory Funk Jr. & Black Bart. Barry Windham & Mike Rotunda vs. Kelly & Gary Royal. Greg "The Hammer" Valentine vs. Steve Muslin. Ivan Koloff & Don Kernodle vs. The Youngbloods.

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 4 Jake "The Snake" Roberts vs. Lord Humongous. "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan vs. "Mad Dog" Buzz Sawyer. The Bruise Brothers (Mad Dog & Pork Chop) vs. The Bushwhackers (Luke & Butch). Jake "The Snake" Roberts vs. Dick Slater w/Dark Journey. Also—a Bunkhouse battle royal!

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 5 The Great Kabuki vs. Steve Muslin. The Assassins vs. Rick McCord & Keith Larson. Ricky Steamboat & Jay Youngblood vs. Gary Royal & Kelly Kiniski. Mark Youngblood vs. Dick Slater. "Brickhouse" Brown & Gene Ligon vs. Ivan Koloff & Don Kernodle. Tully Blanchard vs. Brett Hart (Barry Horowitz). Chief Wahoo McDaniel & Charlie Brown ("Handsome" Jimmy Valiant) vs. The Assassins. Mark Youngblood & Angelo Mosca vs. Magic Dragon & Bill Howard

Wrestling Women & The Doctor of Doom (1961) Beware—a demented doctor and his monster are on the loose! (dubbed in English)

Wrestling Women vs. Aztec Mummy (1963) The gorgeous grapplerettes battle a mad mummy (dubbed in English).

Larry Zbyszko "The New Living Legend" collides with such stellar competitors as Sgt. Slaughter, Greg Gagne & Larry Winters.

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INTERNATIONAL SLAMS

Two of South Africa's top stars, Terri Middoux and the Zimbabwean Bulldog, mugged for our photographer Jopie Fourie.

AUSTRALIA

ACW: "Big Bad" Nick defeated Wayne "The Mouth" Pickford for the Australian Championship Wrestling title. Pickford has left the promotion citing creative differences...The Harpas brothers—Animal and Youngblood—known as Blood to Blood are the tag-team champions.

BSP: Dominic Bianco is the Body Slam Promotions heavyweight champ...The Assassins, managed by Sir Gary, hold the tag straps.

CANADA

HWF: The Hardcore Wrestling Federation, based in London, Ontario, showcased the return of Jake "The Snake" Roberts (Aurelian Smith Jr.), who immediately challenged local hero Gino the Love Machine to a battle....Former WWF tag-team champions Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake (Edward Leslie) and Greg Valentine (John Wisniski Jr.) are feuding here...The Bushwhackers have also seen recent action.

COSTA RICA

LP: Thor and Centinela defeated Muerte and Duende for the Luchamania tag titles...American Express was stripped of the heavyweight title...Galactico holds the light-heavyweight gold.

ENGLAND

NWA-UK: Hammerlock promotions has joined forces with the American-based National Wrestling Alliance. It will now be known as NWA-UK Hammerlock.

Tatanka (Chris Chavis) enjoyed a very successful but short tour this past fall and returned in early 2000 for another victorious run, so you can be sure that the grappling great will be seeing more British action in the future.

Hammerlock's very own Gary Steele became the first British wrestler to ever win the prestigious NWA World heavyweight title. He defeated "Bad Boy" Brian Anthony and Naoya Ogawa in a "three-way dance" held in Charlotte, North Carolina this past fall. Ogawa retained the gold a few days later, but Mr. Steele is intent on another and certainly longer title reign.

PCPW: The Worcester-based league recognizes Snake Eyes as their heavyweight champion...Clive Cannel holds the English middleweight crown.

GERMANY

GWS: German Wrestling Sports recognizes Thomas Blade as their heavyweight champion...Michael Ripp holds the Intercontinental heavyweight belt...Reico J and Raoul are battling with the Fear Factory over the GWS tag-team straps.

JAPAN

All-Japan: Kenta Kobashi holds the Triple Crown title...Vader (Leon White) was injured during the Champion Carnival annual tournament; as a result, he and partner Steve "Dr. Death" Williams relinquished the World tag-team belts.

New Japan: Kensuke Sasaki holds the International Wrestling Gran Prix heavyweight championship belt...Yuji Nagata & Manabu Nakanishi are the IWGP heavyweight tag-team champions...The IWGP junior-heavyweight gold remains in the capable hands of Jushin Liger.

Tatanka's tour of England was nothing short of slamsational. photo: Leonard Brand

Kensuke Sasaki has a firm grasp on the IWGP title. photo: Tokio Tsukada

PUERTO RICO

WWC: Thunder and Lightning hold the WWC tag straps…Ray González continues as World Wrestling Council champ…"Big" Dick Dudley (Adolpho Brescino) is the top U.S. villain at present…Invader III (Johnny Rivera of 1970s WWWF fame) has returned to the ring wars…One Man Gang (George Gray) is expected in soon…Abdullah the Butcher, Kendall Windham, and the Pitbulls recently toured.

SOUTH AFRICA

UWF: Steven Debbes, who formerly competed under the name of Tornado II, currently holds the World heavyweight title. Danie Brits, the number-one contender, is looking forward to a return bout after their recent double-disqualification encounter.

Tatanka (Chris Chavis), who dominated the South African heavyweight division over the past two years, has recently been on tour in Great Britain, and he is expected back in the region very soon.

Canada's Akam Singh continues to defend his UWF World mid-heavyweight championship against all comers…"Tiger" Ellappan, who is an actual Chatsworth police officer, has returned to the ring after a two-year absence.

The American Patriot is recognized as the United States Wrestle Mania champion…Razor Back, the Ultimate Bad Guy, Jeronimo the Indian King, and Leatherface, alleged American wrestlers, have been part of the recent tournaments.

The Zimbabwean Bulldog is back in action after having his pelvis cracked by Leatherface…Germany's Dave Morgan has been teaming with Pretoria's Danie Brits against the Singh brothers, Akam and Gama.

Terri Middoux and fellow Frenchman Jacques Rougue are expected to join forces as a tag team in the near future.

Others on the circuit include: Hammer, Johan Voges, Ze Max, Sunny Surf, and P.J. Black. ***NWW***

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THE PGWA: THE EYE OF THE STORM!

STORY BY SHIAI MATA
PHOTOS BY LYNN SHARP
SPECIAL TO NWW

PGWA's 1998 Rookie of the Year Strawberry Fields has what it takes to rocket to the top!

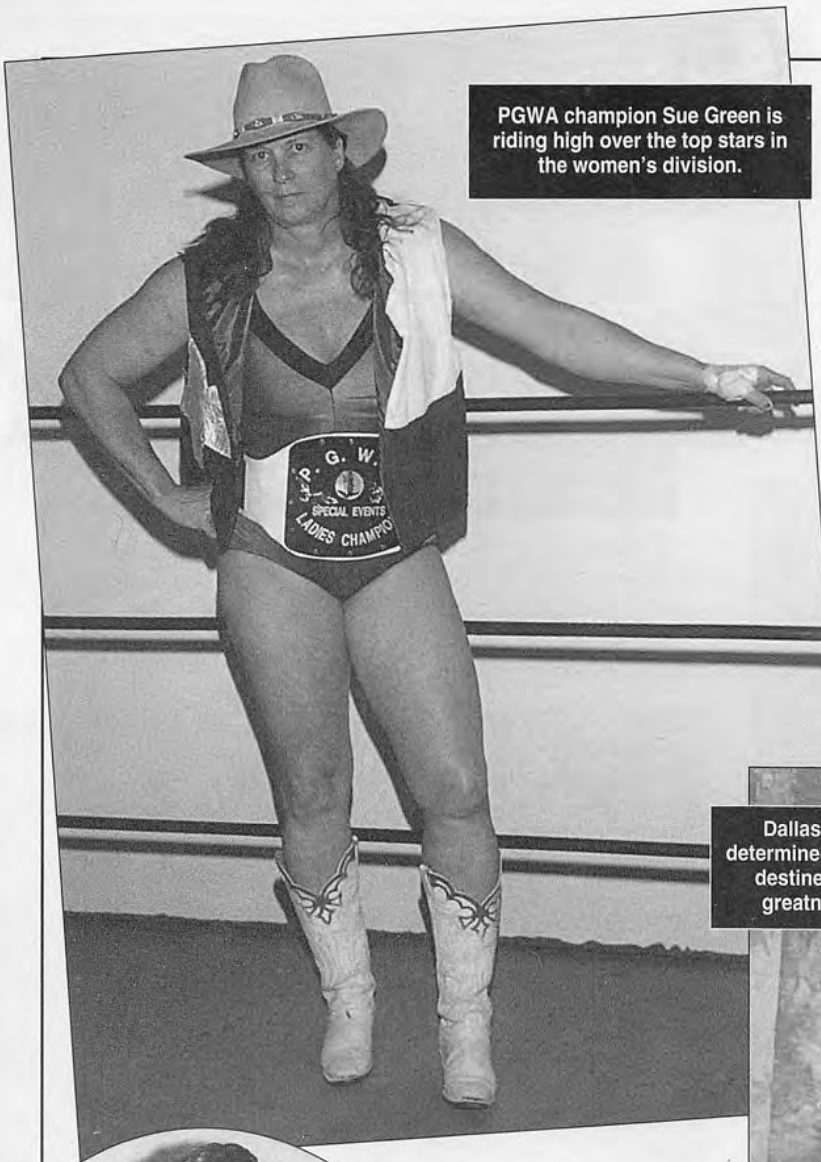
STORM WARNING! North Carolina has seen its share of hurricanes, but nothing of this magnitude has ever hit the Mid-Atlantic region before! More than a dozen of the finest female wrestlers in the sport were in the ring on one exciting night recently. For the fans in attendance, they were witnesses to an historic mat moment of incredible fury...from the Eye of the Storm!

The high-octane pace was set from the ringing of the very first match. Strawberry Fields has fearlessly faced some of the toughest legends in the sport, but she met a tenacious newcomer named Dallas in a donnybrook that had the live crowd on the edge of their seats! Fields made Dallas submit with her feared Boston crab.

Another match saw the irresistible force meet the immovable object when "Ultimate Fighter" Riptide went toe to toe with Katra! This was a challenge for both wrestlers. Riptide did manage to get the win, but not without a fight.

PGWA newcomer Dallas was no match for Strawberry who went on to secure another definitive win by way of her infamous Boston crab.

The British are coming! Three of England's finest came to the United States. First, the North Manchester Club's middleweight champion Pippa L'Vinn, took on the powerful



PGWA champion Sue Green is riding high over the top stars in the women's division.

teamed with Buddy Rose Jr. against the duo of Brooklyn and Amos Jones. A Nitro-style dance routine was performed before the match by beautiful Brooklyn and her valet Mercedes. Brooklyn and Jones got the win in a most outrageous match.

Newcomer Amber Holly took on LeAnne Dotson in a grueling Southern Belles amateur style match that had to be seen to be believed! Amber has plans to move into the pro ranks, while LeAnne enjoys the amateur competition. No surprise to many, but LeAnne pulled out another victory over the determined newcomer.

Seasoned veterans Lailani Kai and Bambi gave fans—and the rookies watching from the locker room—what amounts to a tutoring session on the fine art of professional wrestling as they whipped, tossed, and slammed one another from pillar to post. Bambi emerged triumphant.

In the main event Peggy Lee Leather challenged Susan Green for her PGWA championship! Both women are expert technicians, but given their size

Dallas is a determined rookie destined for greatness.

LeAnne Dotson "womanhandled" Amber Holly in this hard-fought battle.

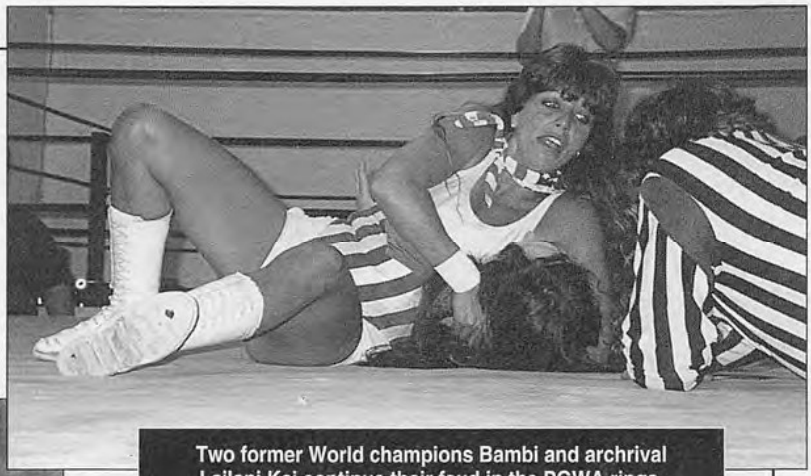
Shelby Beach. Afterwards, Pippa accepted the challenge of the high-flying teenage sensation Louise Lockwood. L'Vinn ended up winning both of the matches.

The fans really loved the hard mat wrestling approach. England should be proud of the caliber of lady wrestlers they are producing.

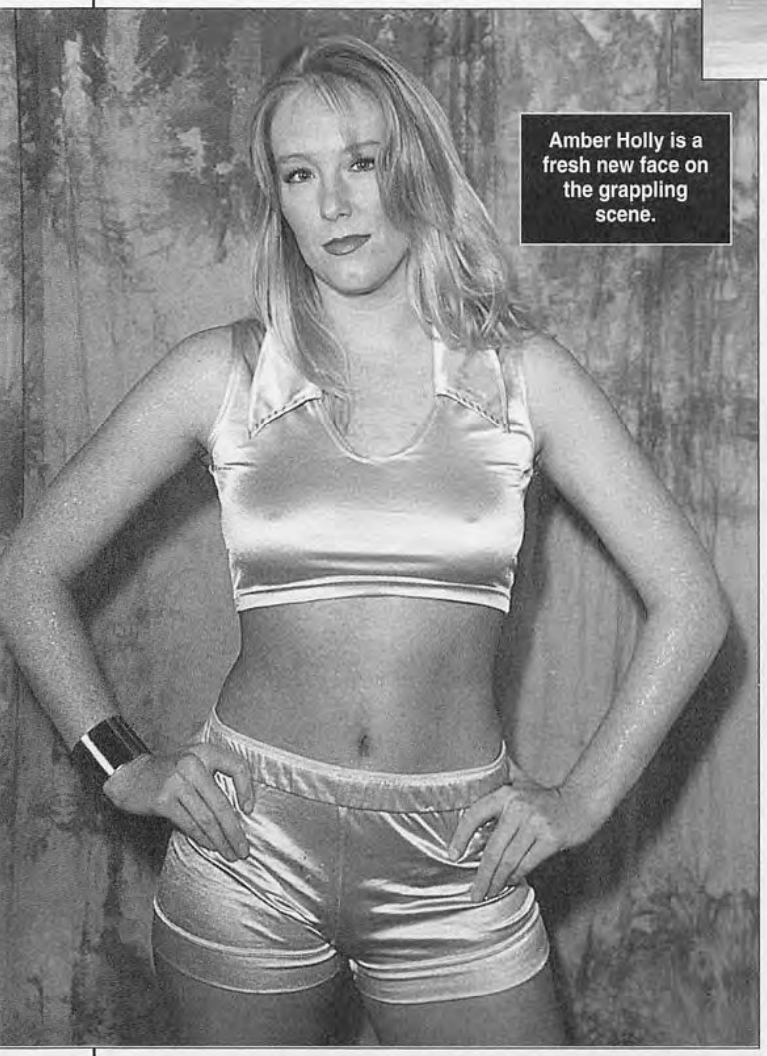
The PGWA has a history of developing new talent. A couple of their rookies on this event are destined for great things! In a mixed tag match, Delaney Lake

and strength, the match soon erupted into the most extreme physical brawl you'll ever see in the ring. Referee Dave Ruth had no choice but to disqualify both wrestlers. Ms. Green retained her crown, but a rematch is definitely in the works.

In addition to the matches, there was a very special appearance by legendary Peggy Banner, who serves as the PGWA commissioner. Also, Sweet Destiny was awarded the "Rookie of the Year" award for her impressive debut last year.



Two former World champions Bambi and archrival Lailani Kai continue their feud in the PGWA rings.

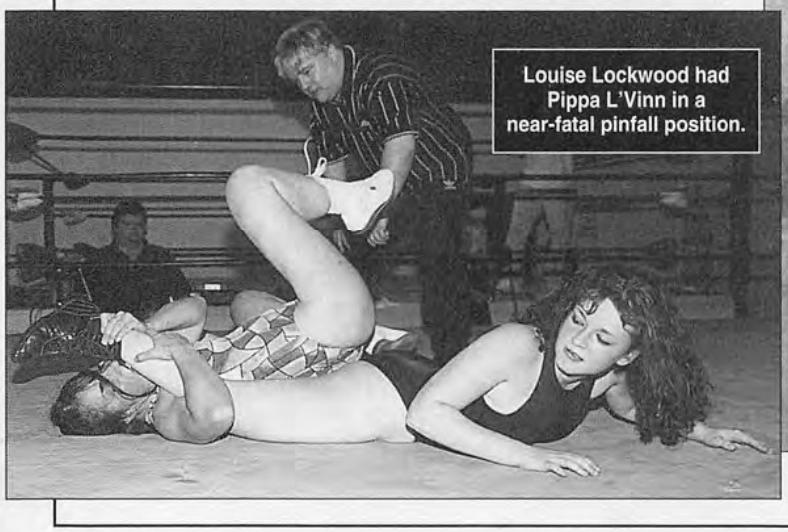


Amber Holly is a fresh new face on the grappling scene.

If you missed being there in person, this special event is available on video. Just put the tapes into your VCR and you, too, will find yourself in the Eye of the Storm!

For more information on this and future events please write to Special Events, P.O. Box 453, Wilkesboro, NC 28697. ***NWW***

Pippa L'Vinn, the North Manchester Women's Wrestling champion, recently invaded the U.S.



Louise Lockwood had Pippa L'Vinn in a near-fatal pinfall position.

The Real Names and Birthdays of Your Favorite Wrestlers!

Here's a comprehensive culmination of squared-circle secret identities and fantabulous fightin' facts—and we do it all for YOU!

** = REAL NAME • N/A = NOT AVAILABLE

Johnny Ace (John Laurinidas) – July 31, 1965
Acolyte Faarooq (Ron Simmons) – May 15, 1964
Bryan Adams (**) – April 14, 1964
Adrian Adonis (Keith Franke) – September 15, 1953 (deceased)
Siva Afi (Max Taogaga) – April 28, 1953
African Bulldog (Ferdinand Ohaebosi) – November 27, 1974
Ajaloko the Giant (Humphrey Izzi) – November 15
Jun Akiyama (**) – October 9, 1969
Giant Baba (Shohei Baba) – January 23, 1938 (deceased)
"Buff" Bagwell (Mark Bagwell) – January 10, 1970
Ben Bassarab (**) – March 3, 1960
Jesse Barr (Ferrin Barr Jr.) – January 20, 1960
Gerry "Crusher" Blackwell (**) – April 26, 1949 (deceased)
Black Venus (Jean Kirkland) – November 11, 1947 (deceased)
Tully Blanchard (**) – January 22, 1954
Nick Bockwinkel (Warren Nicholas Bockwinkel Jr.) – December 6, 1934
Blue Meanie (Brian Heffron) – May 18, 1973
Big Boss Man/Guardian Angel (Raymond Traylor) – August 10, 1962
Bruiser Brody (Frank Goodish) – June 14, 1946 (deceased)
Jumpin' Jim Brunzell (**) – August 13, 1949
Bunkhouse Buck (Jimmy Golden) – August 1, 1950
Ray Candy (Raymond Canty) – December 3, 1951 (deceased)
Mark Canterbury (**) – March 16
Masahiro Chono (**) – September 17, 1963
Ricki Chosyu (Mitsuo Yoshida) – December 3, 1951
Carlos Colon (Carlitos Colon) – July 18, 1945
Dennis Condrey (**) – February 1, 1952
Barry Darsow (**)– October 6, 1959
The Intelligent Destroyer (Richard Beyer) – July 11, 1930
Chic Donovan (Charles Donovan) – March 7, 1947
"Catalina" George Drake (**) – October 31, 1928 (deceased)
Captain Killer (Samuel Dada) – January 24, 1948
Dynamite Kid (Thomas Billington) – December 5, 1958
"Beautiful" Bobby Eaton (**) – August 14, 1958
Jerry Estrada (**) – January 10, 1958
Manny Fernandez (**) – July 27, 1956
Iron FineFace (Festus Obidazie) – October 20, 1962
Yoshiaki Fujiwara (**) – April 27, 1949
"Gorgeous" Jimmy Garvin (William James) – July 25, 1952
Jeff Gaylord (**) – October 15, 1958
"Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert (Thomas Gilbert Jr.) – August 14, 1961 (deceased)
Bill Goldberg (William Scott Goldberg) – December 27, 1966
Golga/Hurricane (John Tenta) – June 22, 1963
Ashura Hara (**) – January 8, 1947
Hiroshi Hase (**) – May 5, 1961
Sakie Hasegawa (**) – June 17, 1970
Tim Horner (**) – August 19, 1959
Yumiko Hotta (**) – January 10, 1967
Spike Huber (Michael Huber) – December 6, 1955
Great Kabuki (Akihisa Mera) – September 8, 1948
Koji Kanemoto (**) – October 31, 1966
Osamu Kido (**) – February 2, 1950
Roger Kirby (Willis Kirby) – December 14, 1939
Kuniaki Kobayashi (**) – January 11, 1956
Aja Kong (Erica Shishedo) – September 25, 1970
"Nature Boy" Buddy Landell (William Ansor) – August 17, 1961
Gary Lang (Gary Langevin) – July 31, 1994
Ho Chi Lau (Takao Tanaka) – November 12, 1948
Luna (Gertrude Vachon) – January 12
King Mabel (Nelson Frazier) – February 14
Tom Magee (**) – July 1, 1962
Rocky Maivia (Dwayne Johnson) – May 2
Suzuka Manami (Mika Suzuki) – April 18, 1969
"Sensational" Sherri Martel (Sherri Russell) – February 8, 1958
Ida Mae Martinez (**) – September 9, 1931
"Moondog" Lonnie Mayne (**) – August 13, 1978 (deceased)
Marc Mero/Johnny B. Badd (Mark Merro? Merowitz?) – July 9, 1965
Mo (Bobby Horne) – April 13, 1955
Kendo Nagasaki (Kazuo Sakurata) – September 26, 1948
Bull Nakano (Keiko Nakano) – January 8, 1968
Nord the Barbarian/Berzerker (John Nord) – October 18, 1959
Michiyoshi Ohara (**) – November 15, 1967
Rip Oliver (Larry Oliver) – October 6, 1952
Shinjiro Ohtani (**) – July 21, 1972
One Man Gang/Akeem (George Gray) – February 12, 1960
Bob Orton Sr. (**) – July 21, 1929
Reese (Ron Reis) – November 18
Brad Rheingans (**) – December 13, 1952
"Wildfire" Tommy Rich (Thomas Richardson) – July 26, 1956
Antonino "Argentina" Rocca (Antonio Biasetton) – April 23, 1923 (deceased)
"Fantastics" Tommy Rogers (Thomas Couch) – May 14, 1961
Akitoshi Saito (**) – August 8, 1965
Hiro Saito (Hiroyuki Saito) – May 25, 1961
Masa Saito (Masanori Saito) – August 7, 1942
Seiji Sakaguchi (**) – February 27, 1942
El Santo (Rudolfo Guzman Huertas) – September 23, 1916 (deceased)
El Samurai (Osamu Matsuda) – September 19, 1966
Kensuke Sasaki (**) – August 4, 1966
Iron Sheik (Khosrow Vaziri) – March 15
Salvatore Sincere (Tom Brandi) – July 9, 1966
Sgt. Slaughter (Robert Remus) – August 27, 1948
Wilbur Snyder (**) – September 15, 1929 (deceased)
Johnny Smith (John Hindley) – August 7, 1965
Storm/Crowbar (Chris Ford) – March 4
Hiroyoshi Tenzan (Hiroyoshi Yamamoto) – March 23, 1971
Les Thatcher (Les Malady) - October 28, 1940
Les Thornton (**) – April 9, 1934
Lou Thesz (Lajos Tiza) – April 1916
Jumbo Tsuruta (Tomomi Tsuruta) – March 25, 1951 (deceased)
Manami Toyota (**) – March 2, 1971
Jesse "The Body" Ventura (James George Janos) – July 15, 1951
Lance Von Erich (Kevin Vaughn) – April 24, 1959
Sunny Wonder (Sun Oluwayemi)-June 5, 1957
Wrath (Bryan Clarke) – March 14, 1964
Barry Windham (**) – July 4, 1960
X-Pac (Sean Waltman) – July 13, 1972
Kazuo Yamazaki (**) – August 15, 1962

Letters may be edited due to space limitations. The viewpoints expressed herein do not necessarily represent *NWW*, its publisher, or its staff.

MIKE'S MAILBAG

Send your comments & opinions to:
Michael O'Hara, Publisher
New Wave Wrestling
P.O. Box 9035, Grand Station, Dept. MM
Long Island City, NY 11103-0903
email us at: newwavemail@net-bizz.com

Dear Mike,

I am a 28-year-old delivery driver and longtime fan of wrestling. Since I was born and raised in West Tennessee, Memphis pro wrestling was watched at my house on a weekly basis.

I have always been a fan of Jerry "King" Lawler and "Superstar" Bill Dundee. I remember the hair matches and loser-leaves-town matches and in my opinion they were the No. I tag team in the Memphis area.

Since the WWF and WCW have become cable television giants, I don't see much ring action from Lawler or Dundee.

My present-day favorite star is The Rock. I respect him very much, but 10 or 15 years ago he would not have stood a chance against Lawler.

Jerry Shutes
Paducah, Kentucky

Dear Mike,

There is too much violence in the wrestling business these days. It has really gotten out of hand. Wrestling should be the way it used to be.

It's also getting to the point where people are starting to get upset because there is too much talking and not enough matches. The wrestlers are wasting too much time complaining instead of getting on with the show.

The business really needs someone who knows how to run a wrestling promotion. I love wrestling very much, but there is just too much bull.

Betty Thacker
Hanover, Indiana

Dear Mike,

I'm a little upset with what I see in wrestling right now. It is no longer about two wrestlers who are equally matched and have excellent technique. If a promoter feels a wrestler is getting too popular or getting too much fan attention, he'll tear him down and strip him of every ounce of dignity he has by having the wrestler turn heel, leave wrestling entirely, or have an attitude adjustment where he trusts no one and joins a renegade group.

Wrestling is a complex business, but what promoters and wrestlers need to realize is that the fans can make or break a promotion.

Carla Anderson
Southfield, Michigan

Dear Mike,

In the last issue, Chuck M. Churby II asked about World Legion Wrestling, but you knew nothing about it. I believe he is talking about the promotion headed by former NWA champ Harley Race.

Race's promotion and school began in September of 1999 and is called World League Wrestling. It is located in Eldon, Missouri.

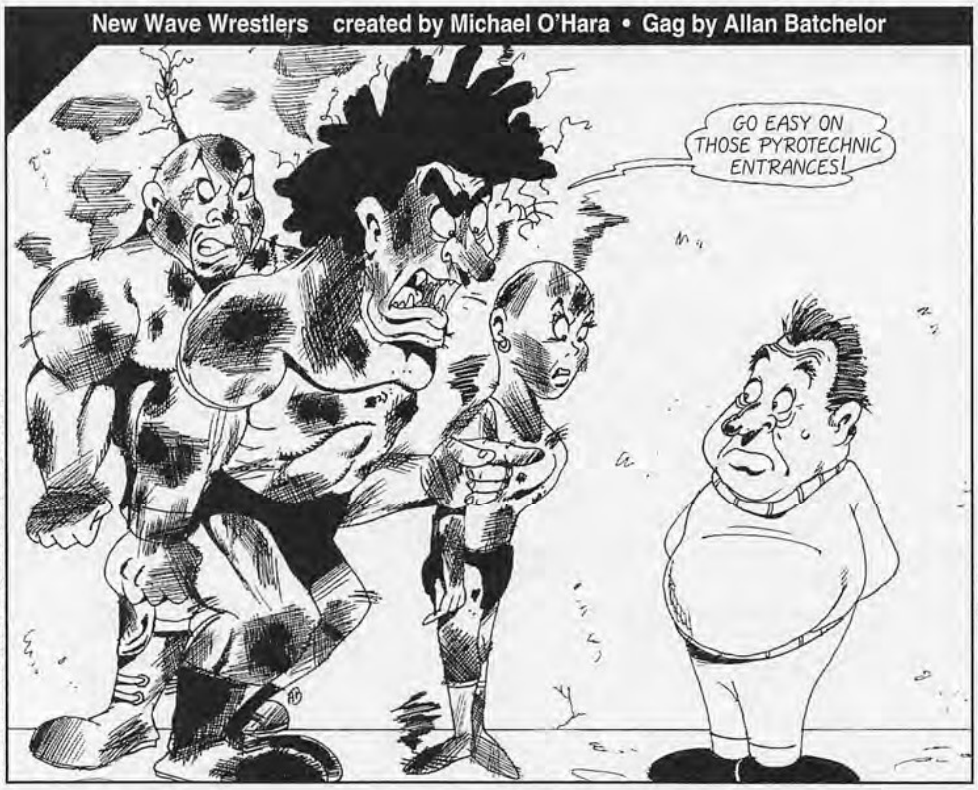
Harley wants his league to be a throwback to the 1970s when it was more about competing than special effects and intricate storylines.

Tim Imhoff
Boonville, Missouri

Dear Mike,

In the last few issues, readers were curious about Waldo Von Erich. His real name is Joseph Frocklege. For the past two years he has been running a pro-wrestling school in Cambridge, Ontario. He has also promoted cards under the ICW banner. King Kong Bundy, Dan Severn, and the Bushwhackers have all wrestled for him.

KJ Hobbs
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada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PINFORMATION

Q: What happened to Baron Von Raschke?

Robert Allen Marine
Elcho, Wisconsin

A: "Der Baron" James Raschke retired from full-time action back in the 1980s, but continued to appear on the regional Minnesota circuit from time to time.

After leaving the mat sport, he briefly taught school; worked as a tour guide in a zoo, and currently runs a seasonal gift shop.

—•—

Q: What can you tell me about Stu Hart?

Jimmy Pierce
Woodside, New York

A: A native of Edmonton, Canada, Stu started his ring career for Joe "Toots" Mondt in New York City back in the 1940s. In 1948, he returned to Edmonton and opened his own regional booking office. Stampede Wrestling was unique because they were the only North American league that had a close working relationship with England's Joint Promotions.

He was responsible for the debuts of such notable legends as Stan Stasiak, Joe Blanchard, "Bulldog" Dick Brower, The Stomper, Reg Parks, Greg Valentine, Larry Hennig, Leo & Bobby Burke, and his own sons, Smith, Bruce, Keith, Bret, and the late Owen Hart.

—•—

Q: What happened to the wrestler known as Berzerker?

Michael Richardson
Santa Margarita, California

A: John Nord, who wrestled as the Berzerker and also Nord the Barbarian, vanished from the mat biz some time ago, and it is rumored that he is involved in his family-owned car dealership in the Midwest.

—•—

Q: Is Rikishi Phatu and Yokozuna the same person? What happened to the Legion of Doom? I haven't seen them lately.

Tyler Coomer
Jackson, Kentucky

A: Rikishi Phatu (Solofa Fatu) and Yokozuna (Rodney Anoai) are not the same person, but they are somehow related (cousins?).

LOD recently competed for Maryland Championship Wrestling .

—•—

Q: Is "Stone Cold" Steve Austin okay after his injury? Is he coming back to the WWF? Does he have a wife and kids?

Patty Siposeuth
Hercules, California

A: Steve is still on the mend as we go to press. From what we understand, he's expressed concern that if he can't return at 100% capacity then retirement is a possibility.

Steve is divorced and the father of two daughters.

—•—

Q: Where is former ICW and WWF champ Tony Atlas? What is his real name? I heard that he was still wrestling on the independent circuit in New England. Do you have an address where he can be contacted?

P Cole
Irvine, Kentucky

A: Atlas (Tony White) lives in Maine and for the past few years was involved with a league known as the EWA, but he has since severed ties with that booking office.

Tony has wrestled and promoted in Maine in recent months, but unfortunately we don't have a mailing address for his group at this time.

—•—

Q: Is Shawn Michaels ever going to wrestle again? Is he still the WWF commissioner?

Aundrey Pilgrim
East Elmhurst, New York

A: Well, Aundrey, as you have no doubt seen, Shawn (Michael Hickenbottom) has returned to the WWF ring wars in the role of a troubleshooting referee. He sustained a serious back injury a few years ago, so we're not sure if he'll attempt a professional comeback.

—•—

Q: When WCW replaced the NWA's US, TV, and tag-team belts, what did they do with them? When USWA stopped having matches, what did they do with their belts? Before they changed to ECW, what did Eastern Championship Wrestling do with their belts? What kind of leather and metal plating is used? How do they carve the words on the belt? Where can I get or make my own belt?

Muhammad Favors
Detroit, Michigan

A: There is no set rule on what happens to the championship belts once they have been made vacant or changed hands. In some instances, the promoter keeps them; other times, he gives the strap to a wrestler as a gift (especially if the title reign proved profitable).

Contrary to popular belief, the belts are not made of solid gold but assorted nonprecious metals and fake stones. Many comic book and collectible shows have dealers selling wrestling belts, so you might want to check your local area.

The belts are created much in the same way a trophy is made. Again, check with a local trophy store for "exact" details.

—•—

Q: The late, great Mildred Burke had a granddaughter named Wendy who I believe was being groomed to become a wrestler. Did she enter the pro ranks? Any idea what became of her?

Matt Colombatto
Berkeley, California

A: Good question. I recall a grandaughter, but I'm not aware of her actual ring activities. Can any ***New Waver*** give us additional info?

—•—

Q: What can you tell me about Glen Jacobs? Were Kane and Tori married or dating at one time?

Janora Wendt
Winamac, Indiana

A: Glen has worked under many ring guises, such as Doomsday, Unabom, The Diesel Döppelganger, Isaac Yankem, and of course Kane. Kane and Tori aren't married.

—•—

Q: Who were the Barrio brothers (Ricky and Fidel), who competed in the first *WCW World War III*. Who was the Motor City Mad Man? Who were the Russian Assassins at *Starrcade 88*?

David Burcham
Mobile, Alabama

A: The Barrio brothers were Ricky (Aldo Ortiz) and Fidel (David Cannell).

Michael Moore was the Motor City Mad Man.

The Russian Assassins were Kenneth Rinehurst (ECW's Jack Victory) and Dave "Angel of Death" Sheldon.

—•—

Q: What are the real names of Ivory, "Gorgeous" George, and Dawn Marie?

Kevin Orynycz
Jamesville, New York

A: Lisa Moretti is Ivory. She also wrestled as Tina Ferrari.

"Gorgeous George" is played by Stephanie Bellars.

Dawn Marie's name escapes me at the moment—Sorry!

—•—

Send your questions to:
Michael O'Hara, Publisher
New Wave Wrestling
P.O. Box 9035 • Grand Sta.
Dept. Pinformation
Long Island City, NY
11103-0903

or email us at:
newwavemail@net-bizz.com

That's all for this issue, ***New Waver***. Keep those positive waves, and good night, B.S. Pully, wherever you are!

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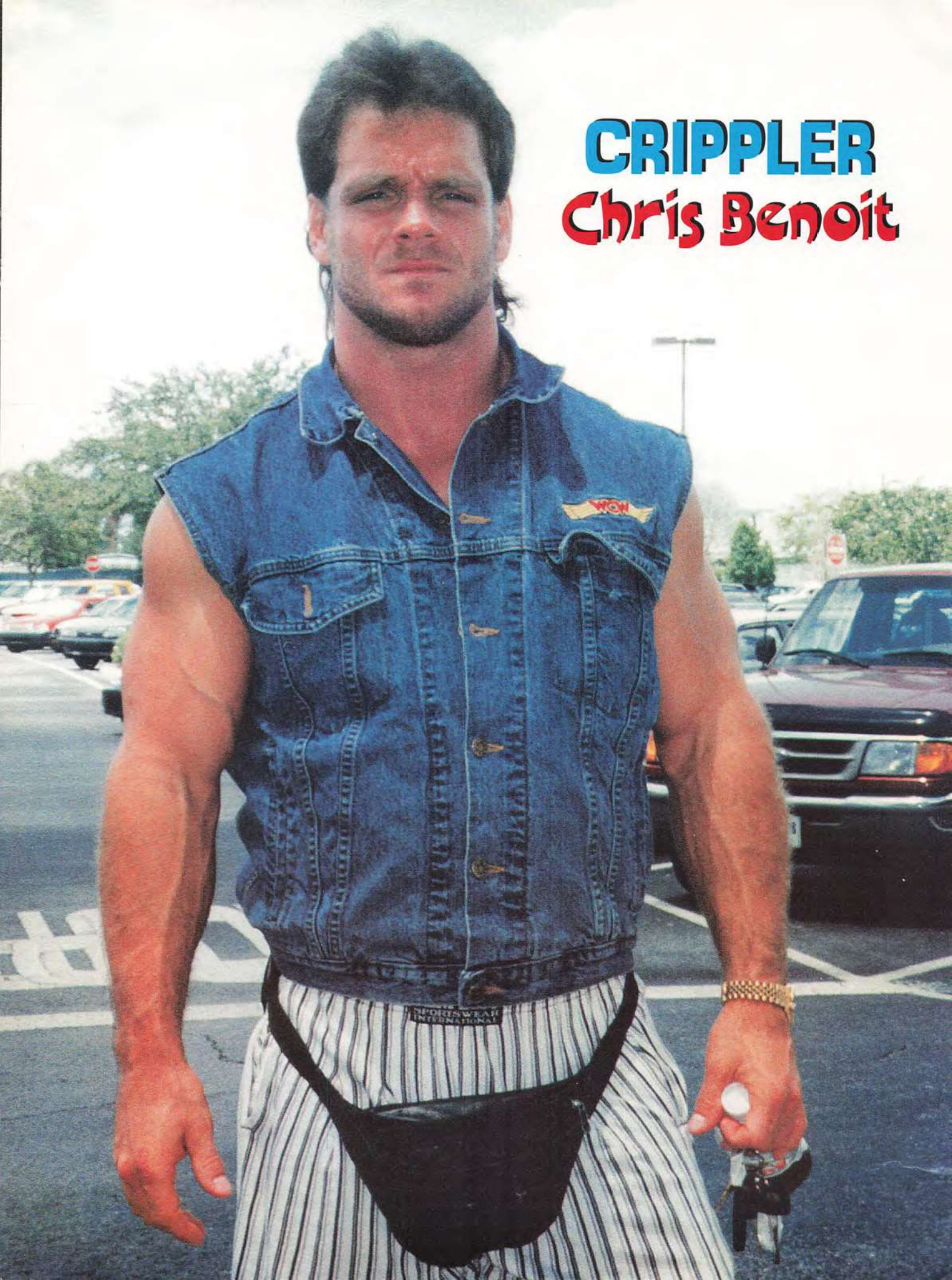
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